

**Victory for S. Africa AIDS activists**  
Big Pharma drops lawsuit, push begins  
to get cheap HIV medication to patients.  
page 17

**French gays gain clout**  
TV network's employee  
group thriving, visitor says.  
page 14

**Funny femme**  
Suzanne Westenhoefer's  
'Tour de Femme.'  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 17 • 26 April 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Toledo quits NGLTF

by Bob Roehr

**A**fter just under a year on the job, Elizabeth Toledo announced that she is stepping down as executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The news release announcing Toledo's departure was sent out late Friday afternoon, April 20. It came exactly one year to the day from the date of the news release announcing her appointment. The more recent statement said she "is resigning her position effective May 18."



Elizabeth Toledo

In the letter of resignation distributed to staff and released to the public, Toledo, 39, tied her departure to family matters, primarily her mother's illness. She cited the need for a less demanding travel schedule that required much time away from family, including her partner, Cindy, and Toledo's two young children, ages 5 and 4, from a previous marriage.

Jerry Clark, co-chair of the NGLTF board of directors, praised Toledo for her work. He said it was ironic that her strong family ties, one of the qualities that made Toledo such an attractive hire, also were what led her to step down.

The task force will not name an interim executive director, "for the time being at least," said Clark, but will rely on the senior management team chaired by political director Tim McFeeley.

Clark said they have already begun the search process, relying primarily upon the pool of candidates that they interviewed a year ago when Toledo was hired. Phone calls over the last few days have established that at least some of those candidates remain interested in and available for the position with NGLTF.

Clark hopes that the process can be concluded "in terms of weeks, not months," though he realizes that it may take longer.

Many people had been surprised by the selection of Toledo to lead NGLTF. She was a vice president of the National Organization for Women, but had no experience working in a gay and lesbian organization. In fact, she had come out as a lesbian less than a year prior to being hired by the task force.

Toledo's performance at a NGLTF page 17 ►



Carole Migden

Duane Cramer

Mark Leno

Dr. Carol Queen

"Mama" Sandy Reinhardt

## Pride grand marshals named

by Katie Szymanski

**T**he numbers are in, and the people who voted have spoken. This year's individual grand marshal honors for the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade will be divided among five community leaders: Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), activist Duane Cramer, Supervisor Mark Leno, sexologist Dr. Carol Queen, and philanthropist and darling of the leather community "Mama" Sandy Reinhardt.

The top five celebrity grand marshals winners are Sharon Stone, Elizabeth Taylor, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bill Clinton, and Nell Carter. And winning the honor of organizing grand marshal are those round young virgins, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

A record 2,486 people cast their ballots in this year's grand marshal election, according to the Pride Committee, and the decision to bestow numerous titles was made because the top five vote-getters received over 50 percent of the votes between them.

"It was clear that the community had voted for diversity," according to Teddy Witherington, executive director of Pride. "Respecting that diversity and wishing to ensure that the majority of the votes were counted, the board was happy to confirm the choice of the people."

Migden, the nominee with the most votes, has championed many LGBT issues through the state Legislature and has most recently introduced expanded domestic partnership rights that would, among other things, allow

page 21 ►

## Transgender benefits delayed

by Katie Szymanski

**C**ount Supervisor Tony Hall out when it comes to voting for transgender health benefits for city employees, the District 7 representative made clear at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, April 23.

The groundbreaking plan to cover sexual reassignment of city employees who are transgender and seeking psychotherapy, hormones, and surgery was pushed through appropriate channels by Supervisor Mark Leno, winning support from the city's Health Service Board in February and unanimous approval from the board's Finance Committee last week.

Although the benefits were scheduled for a vote before the full board on Monday, that vote was delayed when it became clear that Hall's opposition

would prevent the bill from garnering the nine votes needed for passage. Supervisors Tom Ammann and Gavin Newsom, both believed to be supporters of the bill, were absent from the meeting. The vote has been rescheduled for this Monday, April 30, and advocates are putting the word out that supporters need to pack the house.

### Penis enlargement

Residents of Hall's district — apparently upset by the fact that their cosmetic surgeries would not be covered by city health benefits — dispatched numerous phone calls and e-mails to his office, he told the crowd at Monday's meeting.

"There are many other groups of individ-

uals who feel great discomfort and suffer mental anguish because something about their persona is not to their liking," Hall said, comparing transgender health benefits to procedures like elective nose jobs. "It is my duty to vote in accordance with the will of the people," he said in reference to the sentiment

reportedly expressed by his constituents.

Hall's opposition came as a surprise to most in attendance, because he previously voted to support a resolution commending the city's Health Service Board for approving the addition of sex change benefits for work-

page 21 ►

## Davis names gay man to bench

by Cynthia Laird

**C**harles F. "Chuck" Haines, a veteran prosecutor with the San Francisco District Attorney's office, was appointed as a judge to the San Francisco Superior Court by Governor Gray Davis, it was announced Monday, April 23.

Haines, 51, is openly gay and has worked as an assistant district attorney since 1981. A statement released by Davis's office said that during his 20 years in the district attorney's office, Haines has prosecuted "virtually every type of criminal offense, ranging from drunk driving to robbery, hate crimes, rape, and murder." Currently, Haines heads the welfare fraud division, where he manages a staff of attorneys and investigators responsible for the investigation and prosecution of welfare and food stamp fraud.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan was described as "delighted" over Haines's appointment. "I believe the governor has made a brilliant choice in appointing Chuck Haines to the Superior Court bench," Hallinan said in a statement re-



Charles "Chuck" Haines

leased late Monday. "Chuck is a career prosecutor whose fairness and compassion are respected by everyone in the Hall of Justice."

Haines was on vacation and unavailable for comment. He reportedly heard about his judicial appointment while checking his messages.

Previously, Haines ran the general litigation division and the hate crimes unit of the district attorney's office. He is known for his work in combating hate crimes, and in 1998 he participated in the President's White House Conference on Hate Crimes. Haines is a member of the Bar Association of San Francisco and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. He is also the president of the Coming Home organization.

Before joining the district attorney's office, Haines was in private practice in San Francisco from 1978-1981. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Villanova University and a law degree from Tulane University School of Law. He will receive a salary of \$133,051. Haines fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William Cahill. ▼

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## Tribute to leather ‘Daddy’



Castro Street filled with friends of the late Philip Turner on Saturday, April 21, as thousands turned out for a street party celebrating his life, after a standing-room-only crowd attended a memorial service at Trinity Episcopal Church. Turner, 49, who owned Daddy’s bar and was a fundraiser extraordinaire for AIDS charities, died April 4 after a long battle with bacterial pneumonia.

## Still at Batt for MUMC

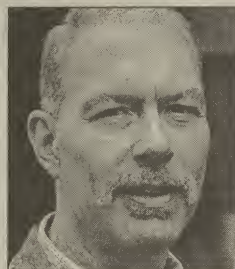
by Katie Szymanski

When shop windows are pretty, streets feel safer, and seasonal celebrations are festive, you can thank the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro for its work and donations to keep the neighborhood running smoothly.

MUMC — the area’s group of business owners and managers — is more than a club for entrepreneurs; the organization is involved in everything from beautifying Harvey Milk Plaza, to erecting the annual Christmas tree, to hiring Castro-specific safety officers. Hoping to continue its work thus far, MUMC held its annual elections at its April meeting, retaining many of its officers and welcoming some new faces as well.

Re-elected officers include Mercury Mail Order and Auto Erotica owner Patrick Batt, to his third one-year term as president; Barry Hermanson of Hermanson’s Employment Services and John Downey of P.O. Plus, both as vice presidents; and Rob Mitchell of Buffalo Whole Foods, as a director.

New officers include Ron Hahr of Bank of America, Jane Warner the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, Herb Cohn of Herb Cohn CPA, Mark Welsh of Rock Hard,



MUMC’s Patrick Batt

and Sister Dahn Van Laar of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Warner, a patrol officer for the Castro named as vice president of public safety for MUMC, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she is looking forward to working more closely with merchants on a safety plan for the neighborhood.

“We’re doing what we can to tackle some of the small stuff in the area, and I’m also putting together a security program for the upcoming Halloween celebration,” she said.

Batt, who has served as president since 1998, said his first priority is opening the new community meeting room that was rented and donated by the soon-to-be Pottery Barn.

“We just got it painted and carpeted, and I’m hoping to get it open and operating very soon,” said Batt.

The community room, at 501 Castro Street, was part of a deal brokered with Pottery Barn when the store first expressed interest in moving to the neighborhood. The room will provide free meeting space to various nonprofits in need. The store itself is tentatively scheduled to open next month.

Also on Batt’s agenda is tackling the energy crisis as it affects the cost of business: guest speakers from the Pacific Energy Center and Kill-a-Watt Energy Management will address the next MUMC meeting on May 3.

Finally, Batt would like to see more neighborhood commercial spaces rented out.

“There are a number of vacancies,” he said, “although I don’t know if that doesn’t have more to do with the greed of landlords as opposed to people not wanting to come in.”

MUMC, an organization with about 190 members, meets the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at — you guessed it — the new community meeting room, 501 Castro, above Sun Glass Hut. Meetings are open to the public and interested community members are welcome to attend. ▼

## Fete to mark LGBT victories in Berkeley

by David Fraser

Berkeley is marking a series of municipal legislative victories this year for the LGBT community with a May Day celebration.

The gathering will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., this Tuesday, May 1, at 2180 Milvia Street, 6th floor. The reception features food “from the four corners of the world.”

Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington, who has pressed for legislation on gay is-

sues, said the event would mark a series of legislative victories passed by the council and other events that take place in the community.

These include LGBT sensitivity training for all 326 members of the city’s Police Department, from chief to civilian, making Berkeley the “first city in the world” to require such training of all its employees, said Worthington.

Also being recognized is the establishment and hiring of an LGBT liaison within the Police Department; the passage of the

equal benefits ordinance; the third annual LGBT Labor Day brunch; the designation of June as Lesbian Gay Pride Month, which includes flying a rainbow flag at City Hall; a National Coming Out Day proclamation and program; and increased representation of LGBT people on the city’s boards and commissions.

“We are almost everywhere,” joked Worthington.

For more information, call the council member’s office at (510) 981-7170. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Hearing next month on HIV reporting rules

by David Fraser

California's Department of Health Services is soliciting public comment and will hold a hearing in Sacramento next month on proposed regulations for the reporting of persons with HIV infection using a non-name code.

The new regulations call for reporting of HIV cases to the state. Currently only AIDS cases are required to be reported, and those must be reported by the patient's name.

HIV reporting is mandatory in 47 other states but has thus far been precluded in California unless there is an AIDS diagnosis.

Announcement of the hearing and comment period comes amid concerns from HIV counselors at some Bay Area clinics about how effectively clients' privacy will be protected, especially if they test positive for HIV.

The regulations can be seen online at [www.dhs.ca.gov/aids/](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/aids/).

The hearing is set for 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 16 in the auditorium at 714 P Street, Sacramento. Public comments can be made at the meeting.

The broader public comment period on the proposed rules began last month and ends at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 21. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Office of Regulations, Department of Health Services, 714

P Street, Room 1000, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320. Faxed comments can go to (916) 657-1459; e-mails to [regulation@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:regulation@dhs.ca.gov).

All comments should include the author's name and mailing address so that DHS can provide copies of any proposed changes in the text for further comment. Remarks should use the department regulation control number R-19-00.

Inquiries on comment procedures can be directed to Barbara Gallaway, R.N., at the Office of Regulations at (916) 657-3197 or to Linda Tutor at (916) 654-0381. Questions on the substance of the regulations can go to Jim Creeger of the Office of AIDS at (916) 322-1065.

Locally, questions on the regulations or how they may affect actions by the San Francisco Department of Public Health can go to Dr. Sandy Schwarcz, director of AIDS Surveillance, at (415) 554-9000.

San Francisco DPH counseling and data testing forms currently being used by HIV clinics in the city use a coded identifier including letters from clients' surnames and last letter of mothers' maiden names. They also request information on race, gender, and sexual orientation and behavior.

Under the proposed statewide regulations a "non-name code" combination of letters and numbers will be used to protect clients'

privacy, said Vanessa Baird, assistant chief at the state's Office of AIDS in Sacramento.

"Anonymous testing is not part of this system," Baird told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, April 24. "The CDC guidelines encourage states to maintain anonymous testing sites as an option to clients. We have the same philosophy, with no intention of removing anonymous testing sites. They're of the utmost importance for people who may be at risk."

The new rules, she said, apply to confidential sites, at which personal data is collected and coded.

"All state and local staff" who handle HIV surveys and reporting, Baird said, "are trained on current laws. The training makes it very clear that people are to be protected against inappropriate disclosure of HIV results. They know that the law protects clients, and that there are penalties for violation."

But an HIV counselor at the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic expressed skepticism. "The problem," said the counselor, who declined to be identified, "is that the new unique identifier codes [of the proposed regulations] ask for additional data which make it really, really easy to find out the person's name if you want to."

At the Berkeley Free Clinic, which has officially resisted the shrinking of anonymous testing, risk assessment forms are available, but they are not used. ▼

## LEGAL QUESTION?



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## AIDS heroes receive honors tonight

by David Fraser

The 2001 AIDS Hero Awards will be presented to several people and a leather group tonight (Thursday, April 26), at the Chat Cafe, 498 Sanchez at 18th Street in San Francisco.

The annual awards are being presented by the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil.

Doors open at 6 p.m.; the program starts at 7 and includes the awards ceremony, refreshments, and music.

Awardees this year are:

- Syringe exchange activist Chris Catchpool, director of Casa Segura, the Oakland needle exchange site that recently was the target of an arson attack.

- Jeff Sheehy, former Milk Club president and longtime AIDS activist. Sheehy is being recognized for his work on the successful "United Against United" airline boycott, as well as San Francisco's

equal benefits and nonprofit sunshine ordinances.

Sheehy now leads the Milk Club's PWA caucus and is on the board of the Saint James Infirmary, a sex-workers' clinic held weekly at the City Health Clinic.

- HIV-positive transgender activist Felicia Elizondo, a longtime volunteer at AIDS service organizations including the ARIS Project in San Jose, Project Open Hand, Proyecto Contra Sida, and Pets Are Wonderful Support. She was a spokesmodel in last year's HIVStopsWithMe.org campaign and is an activities coordinator at Shanti.

- HIV-positive psychologist and activist Michael Siever, the first community co-chair of the Treatment on Demand Planning Council and the founder and director of the Stonewall Project, a harm-reduction program for gay and bisexual men in San Francisco.

- HIV-positive activist Nilda Rodriguez, the former co-chair of

the San Francisco Health Services Planning Council and current volunteer manager and community liaison at WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases) in Oakland.

- Judy Leahy, outreach and education manager at Project Inform, for her work to help underserved San Francisco AIDS community organizations and in organizing AIDS treatment community forums.

- SMMILE (South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events), the all-volunteer nonprofit leather organization that puts on the Dore Alley and Folsom Street fairs, thereby donating millions of dollars to AIDS and community organizations throughout the Bay Area.

The annual AIDS Candlelight March has become the world's largest grassroots AIDS event. This year it will be held on Sunday, May 20, kicking off from Castro and Market streets at 8 p.m. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Arraignment postponed for third time in fatal dog mauling case

by Ed Walsh

The third time was not the charm for prosecutors eager to get started with the trial of Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal January 26 attack on Diane Whipple.

The attorney couple appeared in court for their arraignment on Wednesday, April 25, but for the third time, the arraignment was postponed. The new date is May 9.

Over the objection of prosecutors, Deputy Public Defender Jan Lecklikner was granted a request for more time to work on the case and for more time for Noel and Knoller to seek private attorneys.

"I am working 24-7 on this case," said Lecklikner. "No time is being wasted for this arraignment."

District Attorney Terence Hal-

linan said he was frustrated over the defense's continued requests for delays.

"The state has the right to a speedy trial, too," he argued.

Outside court, Hallinan reiterated his concerns over the delays and said he would not object to an expected change of venue motion. Hallinan said he was concerned that if the case were tried in San Francisco over the defense's objections, it could give the defense an avenue for appeal.

The court was full of supporters of Whipple, including her partner, Sharon Smith, and at least seven members of the St. Mary's lacrosse team that Whipple coached. The players wore their team uniforms and navy blue ribbons in Whipple's memory.

Smith left the courtroom for a meeting with prosecutors without talking to reporters, but one of her

attorneys, Kate Kendall, echoed prosecutors' concerns over the continued delays in the case. Kendall added that in her capacity as the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, she hears concerns about the case wherever she travels.

"What's clear to me is that for lesbian and gay individuals and couples in this country, this case strikes a very deep chord," Kendall said. "Not only is the magnitude of the tragedy so significant but the fact that Sharon's relationship is made invisible under California law. The civil side of what we're doing is to rectify that wrong. Obviously, we want the criminal charges to proceed. We want criminal liability to be found but we also want California law to honor and recognize Sharon and Diane's relationship for what it was, a marriage."

Kendall, along with her co-counsel, Michael Cardoza, are proceeding with a civil wrongful death lawsuit against Noel and Knoller on behalf of Smith. The couple also faces a lawsuit from Whipple's mother, Pamela Whipple-Kelly. If Smith wins her case, it would be a legal first. Currently state law only allows married couples and family members the right to sue for wrongful death.

Since their indictment on March 27, Noel and Knoller remain in jail on a combined bail of \$3 million. Knoller is being charged with second-degree murder, Noel with involuntary manslaughter. Both are also charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. ▼

## Shop till you drop for community center Saturday

by David Fraser

Two Castro merchants will donate a share of their profits from this Saturday, April 28, toward the completion of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

The stores, Spike's Coffee and Tea, and the Jungle Red hair salon, are kicking off "Fulfilling the Dream" shopping days to help the center, currently under construction at Market and Octavia streets.

"This is an opportunity to do something good for your hair and your community center," said Mike Marshall, interim director of the Community Center Project. "We hope everyone will go out of their way to spend money" at the two stores.

Floyd Prewitt, owner of Jungle Red and creator of the shopping days concept, commented, "Harvey Milk dreamed that one day San Francisco would have a center for

the whole lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Giving to the community center is our way of helping to fulfill Harvey's dream and give back to our customers."

Prewitt added, "We want to challenge other merchants in the Castro and throughout the city to join us" for the next Fulfilling the Dream shopping events scheduled for Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, June 23.

"The community center is for all of us and we in the business community must do our part," Prewitt said.

Two Web sites, [www.sanfrancisco.commerchants.com](http://www.sanfrancisco.commerchants.com) and [www.castroonline.com](http://www.castroonline.com), have agreed to promote the shopping days concept by giving a free listing and endorsement on their Web sites to businesses that participate.

Interested business owners can call Ron Perri at the center at (415) 437-2257, or e-mail [ronp@sfcenter.org](mailto:ronp@sfcenter.org) for more information. ▼

## Explode the form at Genderblast this Saturday

by Katie Szymanski

When it comes to tired labels and little boxes for gender identity, nobody mixes it up like the youth. It therefore follows that all transgender, genderqueer, intersex, and gender-questioning young people – plus their friends and allies of all ages – are invited to the third incarnation of "Genderblast" this Saturday, April 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to blow the lid off stereotypes and convention.

Co-sponsored by the Youth Gender Project and the Harvey Milk Institute, Genderblast III is a daylong conference of workshops and presentations. Fourteen workshops will be offered over three sessions, including "Trannyboy Warrior Princesses," "Genderqueer Body Image for Youth," "Know Your Rights with the Police," "What's Homelessness Got to do With It," "Intersex Issues 101," "Anti-Racism for TG/Q Youth," and "TG/Q Youth for Providers."

Genderblast presenters come from a wide range of organiza-

tions, like TransAction, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, and FTM International. There will also be a special presentation by Max and Corissa Anderson and others involved with the production of the movie *Southern Comfort*, the Sundance feature documented the struggle of a trans man who could not get appropriate medical care.

Registration is free and open to everyone, and begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. All young people looking to be a part of the revolution should gather a few friends and head to the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street, at Collingwood. Adults involved in direct services are especially encouraged to attend, but even old queens and butch dykes attached to their gender rules will learn something worthwhile. Pre-registration is requested, but not required; call (415) 552-7200 or e-mail [harvmilk@aol.com](mailto:harvmilk@aol.com) to RSVP. For more information, call YGP at (510) 665-9234. Genderblast III will be ASL interpreted and is disabled accessible. ▼



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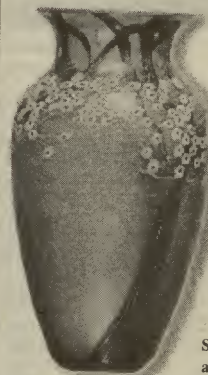
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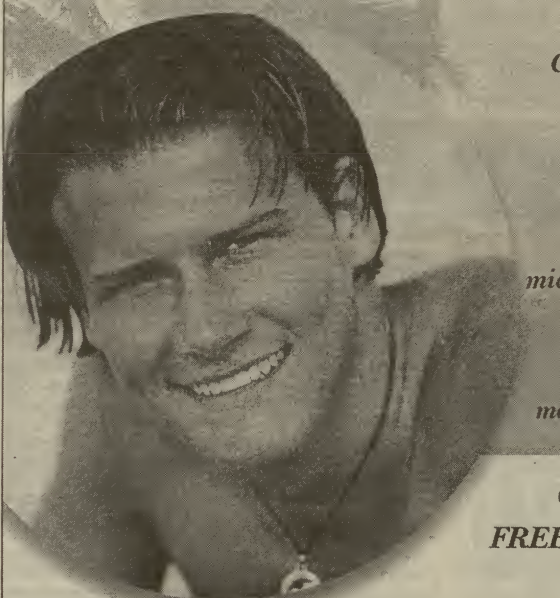
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Katie Szymanski

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## OPEN FORUM

## Hall belts out a sour tune

Part-time crooner and San Francisco Supervisor Tony Hall surprised many on Monday when he came out swinging against a proposed change in the benefits package for city employees that would add coverage for transgender workers – including hormone therapy, psychotherapy, and surgery. Supervisor Mark Leno, who has spearheaded the changes in the city's benefits package, was caught off guard because earlier this year Hall had voted for a resolution commending the Health Service Board for voting in February to add the benefits for transgenders to the package. At the time, it seemed Hall was supportive of the benefits change; now his constituents' expressed opposition to the plan – reportedly through phone calls and e-mails – has resulted in Hall's apparent flip-flop at Monday's board meeting.

As a result of Hall's sudden switch, the matter was delayed for one week when the full board is expected to be in attendance. (Because of the absences of Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Gavin Newsom, Leno did not have the nine votes required for passage once Hall let it be known he opposed the plan.)

It was Hall's uninformed comments about transgenders, however, that surprised us. While District 7, which Hall represents, is hardly one of the most liberal in San Francisco, Hall does not appear to be making an effort to educate his constituents or himself about the need for transgender city workers to be entitled to the same health benefits as other employees.

In fact, Hall is under the mistaken impression that gender identity is on the same level as what he called "personal appearance dysphoria," and equated gender reassignment surgery with elective procedures.

Leno called Hall's argument faulty, and noted that sex change procedures would not be elective but based on medical need. And as transgender people are well aware, the

process is neither easy, nor quick and often involves years of therapy. Once a medical need is determined, transgenders often face economic barriers to completing surgery – if that is their choice – because they can't afford it. Leno's plan, which some trans activists say doesn't go far enough, includes a \$50,000 cap on benefits in a person's lifetime, and is available only after a one-year waiting period.

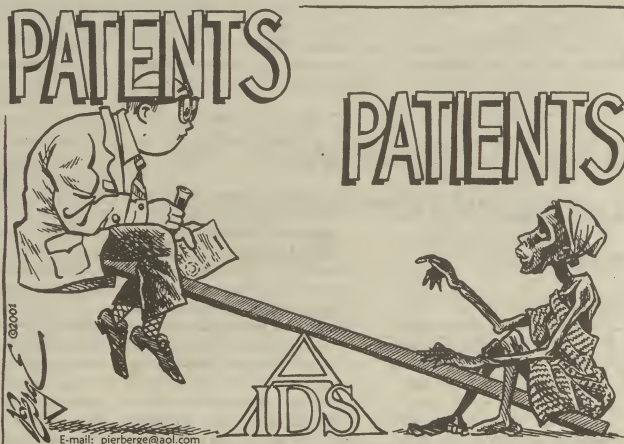
Some opponents argue that if the board approves the change, transgenders will come flocking to San Francisco to take advantage of the benefits. They seem to forget that the proposal only affects city employees; and at last count there were only about 12 trans-

gender-identified city workers out of a municipal workforce of 27,000. That prompted Leno in February to note, "It's clearly quite difficult to become employed by the city if one is transgender." Regardless of the number, the fact remains that transgender city workers should receive the same benefits as their non-transgender counterparts. The change is part of a larger benefits package that also offers improved health coverage for all city employees, including infertility treatment, acupuncture, hearing aids, and Viagra to treat erectile dysfunction.

The board should approve the benefits package at its next meeting; after all, as Leno noted, "This is about equal benefits for equal work." ▼



## Editorial



## TIC proposal is bad law

by Gustavo Serina

Supervisor Chris Daly plans to introduce legislation to severely restrict home ownership opportunities for many San Franciscans. His extremely complicated proposal limits tenancies-in-common, one of the most affordable and popular ways for middle-class people to own their own homes. TICs allow a group of individuals to buy a multi-unit building, with each purchaser having a right to occupy one apartment. Daly's proposal is a variation on Proposition N, which was overwhelmingly rejected last November by voters in eight of 11 districts, including District 8, and lost citywide 54 percent to 46 percent. Last week's Bay Area Reporter quoted a few Castro "activists" who demanded that District 8 Supervisor Mark Leno support the Daly proposal. However, those "activists" do not represent the views of the majority of District 8 voters.

At last week's Eureka Valley Promotion Association meeting, 95 percent of members in attendance voted to oppose this legislation and instructed its corresponding secretary to write to the Board of Supervisors urging them to reject the Daly bill. Eureka Valley is the official name of the district now known as the Castro. EVPA is the City's oldest neighborhood organization and has approximately 100 members, primarily renters and homeowners living in District 8. Its membership, which has grown significantly in the past year, is far more representative of the neighborhood than those individuals quoted in last week's B.A.R. article.

Why does EVPA urge Supervisor Leno and his colleagues to reject the Daly proposal? Among reasons cited were:

- It does not add one unit of new rental stock to the city.

- By further reducing the supply of housing for sale without reducing the demand for such housing, the legislation will lead to even higher home prices in San Francisco,

making ownership more difficult for people of all income levels.

- District 8 voters, along with a majority of citywide voters, rejected Proposition N last November. If, as Supervisor Daly claims, his legislation is substantially different from Proposition N, then he should move to put it on the ballot and allow the electorate to vote on it.

- The Board of Supervisors devoted two recent sessions to litigation resulting from the city's gross receipts tax collected from corporations. The board voted to settle this suit by refunding \$80 million to the corporations and to change its tax structure, at an annual cost of \$25 million. The extremely complex Daly legislation, if passed, will lead to further expensive litigation in which the city is unlikely to prevail.

- Sale of TICs increases the city's revenue from real estate transfer fees and property taxes, revenue sorely needed to sustain important services. The business tax settlement and the slowing economy will reduce San Francisco's revenues, which will be further hurt by the financial impact of the Daly legislation. The city cannot afford to lose any more tax dollars.

- Increased home ownership leads to many benefits for communities, which is why it should be encouraged; making home ownership more expensive is illogical.

Daly and his supporters argue that his legislation protects seniors and disabled individuals with limited incomes from evictions. EVPA agrees that this is a serious issue and supports protection for vulnerable individuals, but believes that protection would be better achieved in other ways. For example, seniors occupying units converted into condominiums, which are legally different from TICs, cannot be evicted. Most owners of TICs see this form of ownership as an interim step leading to conversion of their units into condominiums. If the city

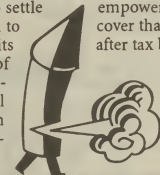
did not restrict condominium conversions, most buyers would not enter into TICs. Therefore, ending the current 200 annual limit on condominium conversions would not only reduce the number of TICs, but would protect seniors from losing their homes.

Lifting the condominium conversion cap would also increase the amount of housing for sale, which would help stabilize prices and allow more renters to own their own residences – an excellent form of economic empowerment. Many former renters discover that their mortgage payments, on an after tax basis, are less than what they were paying for rent. Home ownership is a crucial part of retirement planning and provides people with emotional, psychological, and financial benefits. Denying home ownership to individuals, as the Daly proposal does, is irresponsible.

Rather than disregard a clear electoral mandate to not limit home ownership opportunities as represented by TICs, Supervisor Daly and his colleagues should wait for the completion of a city financed independent housing study, which, among other things, may explain why 10,000 apartments have been taken off the rental market by their owners and remain vacant despite the high rents they could command. The supervisors should focus their attention on increasing the supply of housing in the city, not making it harder and more expensive for people to purchase homes. Motivating owners to rent apartments now unoccupied would be a major step in that direction and would help balance the supply and demand for housing in San Francisco.

EVPA strongly urges Supervisor Leno to vote against the Daly proposal. ▼

Gustavo Serina is the corresponding secretary for EVPA.



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Who are the 'gay people'?

Dear "Some Concerned Gay People" (who purchased the back page advertisement in the April 19 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*):

After a long day at work (we go to print with the National Queer Arts Festival 2001 brochure), I finally had the chance to read today's *Bay Area Reporter* with your advertisement on the back cover of the front section. I wonder just who "you" are?

If you're "offended" by the use of the word queer, I bet you're white, middle class (read: neither I, nor, my organization can afford to buy the back cover of the *Bay Area Reporter*), and male. I'd also bet that you don't know many people of color; you wear clothing that is typically assigned to your biological gender (but think it's really fun to put on a dress on Halloween); you pass easily as your biological gender; and you don't know many/any transgender people.

Those of us who do choose to call ourselves queer aren't out to erase the words lesbian or gay. Nor do we seek the erasure of words probably more unfamiliar or unpalatable to you like bisexual, transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, dyke, cocksucker, bulldagger, Uranian, or homophile.

We understand that queer is a hurtful word when used by people that hate us. However, I was called "gay" and "faggot" in my high school as many times as I was called "queer" – and the occasions were numerous. What should I call myself then? Words derive their meaning and power from the people using them – you don't have the right to be offended until you understand that first.

Has it occurred to "Some Concerned Gay People" that everyone in the queer communities isn't white, gay, wealthy, and male? That maybe there's room for more than one (very limiting) sexual identity? That no one is telling you that you can't be "gay" anymore or that you have to call yourself "queer"?

Some of us like calling ourselves queer; it invokes the notion of resistance – to sexism, racism, classism, and oppression. No women I know call themselves "gay" in fact the only time I hear "gay women" in a sentence is out of the mouth of a man who doesn't know any lesbians or dykes.

I assure you that when the brand new San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center opens its doors this fall, it will be the "Queerest Place on Earth" despite the fact that the word "queer" probably won't be in its name. The building – and all of the organizations in it – will welcome and serve people from all sexual identities – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and our allies.

I consider myself blessed to live in San Francisco where my friends, co-workers, and family are made up of so many different types of people; maybe you should get to know some more of them.

Kevin Schaub, Executive Director  
Harvey Milk Institute

## 'Closet cases anonymous'

Some anonymous person(s), shrinking fearfully from the "queer" label, bought an ad which states: "I believe we should respect those who marched before us and leave the word 'queer' in the past where it belongs."

How can these "closet cases anonymous" claim to speak for early activists? Considering the usual discourse – "four activists, five opinions" – why should anyone expect uniformity on this issue, or any issue, from our queer pioneers? Did the buyers take a survey? Did they bother to ask Harry Hay what he thinks?

For me, queer rights pickets started around 1964-65, several years before Stonewall. Did any of these ad-buyers march earlier than that? How dare they imply that all old activists are timid about words! Indeed, some of us insist on being called "old," scolding mush-mouth timidities like "slightly older." Not only do I call myself "queer," but I proudly add "subversive polysexual pervert." Wimpiness isn't universal among the old, nor unknown among the young.

As for the q-word, our communities need some all-embracing term which welcomes all "LGBTIQTHA, etc." people. Our alphabet extends, as of this moment, to lesbian, gay, bi, trans, intersex, questioning, two-spirit, hijra, and ally at least, and I apologize to anyone who feels excluded. With our current alphabet approach, we'll need to re-name our community center every two or three years. Far from carving the name in marble, we'll chalk it on slate.

If "queer" is too harsh to serve as our umbrella term, then we need to brainstorm up a list of workable alternatives. Let's nominate and vote, as if the labels or symbols were candidates for grand marshal.

At the risk of seeming sentimental, I propose "lavender" – not only the color, but also the flower. Yet I predict "rainbow" will win.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
San Francisco

## Hall's arguments illogical

The Board of Supervisors of the city and county of San Francisco is seriously considering adding transgender health care to the city's health benefits package. Supervisor Tony Hall notes that the vast ma-

jority of city employees will not need transgender medical benefits. This is true. He claims that therefore these benefits are discriminatory. This is false. Consider: The vast majority of San Francisco city employees are not diabetic and do not need coverage for insulin costs. The majority of San Francisco city employees are not myopic and do not need vision coverage. To provide insulin to a diabetic in no way harms those who are not diabetic. Prescribing vision correction to the near-sighted does not hurt those fortunate enough to enjoy 20/20 vision. Rather, everyone benefits. Supervisor Hall's argument is illogical on its face and, while sincere, is based in ignorance and prejudice. The supervisor, who is a religious man, stood alone on Monday in his opposition to including transgender health care for city employees and civil servants in the proposed health package. I am also a religious man. As such, I can only hope and pray that the next time Supervisor Hall prays for understanding and compassion, that his prayers will be answered.

Jordy Jones, Co-chair  
SF TG Civil Rights Implementation Task Force  
Member, GLBT Advisory Committee, SF HRC

## Speak up at drug abuse hearing

Californians spoke resoundingly with their votes going to support Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, in last November's general election. The 61 percent margin reflects the growing sentiment that addiction is a disease, a medical condition. Here in San Francisco, this sentiment has prevailed for quite some time, witness the medical model approach with which our local health leadership and law enforcement have taken in dealing with the totality of the drug epidemic.

This Friday (1-3 p.m.) and Saturday (noon-2 p.m.), April 27 and 28, the San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board's public policy committee will be hosting a town hall meeting at City Hall in the John Taylor Committee Room 263. The meetings will focus on public comment, information, criticism, and suggestions on what the city is doing right, what it needs to change or improve in the treatment programs it funds, how to increase funding (currently less than 1 percent of the city's budget), how to involve the public in the fight against this disease, and what policies should be in place as the city moves forward in recognizing that we face an epidemic where costs both financially and in lives is almost beyond comprehension. Drug abuse affects each and every San Franciscan, if not with someone we love or know, then in our pocketbooks and financial ledgers.

While much of the focus is on implementing Proposition 36 in San Francisco – indeed, plans are being finalized now under the very able leadership of Barbara Garcia of the Department of Public Health and District Attorney Terence Hallinan – there are more people with addiction disease who are never arrested. The favorable climate for sending those with a conviction or guilty plea to simple possession or use of illegal narcotics into treatment should naturally be complemented with equal fervor by expanding our treatment models to meet the needs of Proposition 36 users and the many, many others with addiction disease who will not be able to access treatment through the proposition. Estimates of San Franciscans who abuse or are addicted to narcotics are within the range of 2 to 10 percent. Many of these are recreational users where the effects of narcotic use have not yet openly been presented or noticed. We are not talking about marijuana, but about drugs such as crack cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Take a walk through the Tenderloin, inner Mission, Haight-Ashbury, or Bayview-Hunter's Point neighborhoods and you will see the ravages of addiction up close. It is not a pretty picture.

Everyone in San Francisco has a stake in this. Please come to the meetings.

Frederick Hobson, Public Policy Chair  
San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board

## Alley busy after dark

I understand the folks who live on Ringold Alley are up in arms about sex on their street. Hello – didn't they have a clue before they moved there? As far back as the 1970s it has been busy after dark.

I recall once in the early 1980s a SF buddy took me, for the first time, to a sex club off 9th Street. Some hours later he forgot about bringing me and left. Thank goodness he had friends there who could take this greenhorn back to where I was staying. Anyway, they said on the way we'd check on some of Darrel's other haunts: Dore Alley, several bars, and of course, Ringold. My god, by this time I was taking notes!

The next night I found my way to the alley and the parking area behind it (which is now fenced off). That one occasion will remain one of the fondest times in my 20 years of San Francisco.

By the way, does anyone remember the man's shadow painted in black on the parking area's wall?

Ron Sapp  
Dover, Delaware

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### Hoodwinked again

We, the people, are hoodwinked so often that we find ourselves in states of debilitating disillusionment. Self-serving advocates of the California Lottery touted it as offering significant financial aid to California public schools. And the initiative concerning Indian gaming casinos not only was going to provide financial relief to destitute Indian tribes, it was going to provide rational control of gambling in California. Promoters assured us that there would be no "Las Vegas style" gambling, and that casinos would not be located in, or near, large metropolitan areas.

Well, contrary to those related government assurances, the California Lottery provides less than 3 percent of public school expenditures, and Indian casinos are not only offering blatant "Las Vegas style" gambling, they have proliferated to the extent that they are adjacent to, and soon will be established in, large metropolitan areas.

More recently, we have been hoodwinked to believe that the money from overly generous tax rebates for the rich will trickle down to the poor, completely ignoring the wisdom of Franklin D. Roosevelt: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Another deceit perpetrated by government involves the assurances by top brass of the armed services that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning homosexuals is a success. In actuality it is a failure. It degrades gays and lesbians, locking them in the same closets that for centuries have stifled self-realization and self-respect. DADT lends support to the myth that homosexuals are inferior, not the constructive human beings and effective soldiers which they are so capable of being. Because of failure to deal forcefully with discrimination, the armed services have allowed harassment of homosexuals, and those people perceived to be homosexuals, to continue. Certainly the military could be stressing the importance of understanding and acceptance of one another; thus helping to break another pattern of discrimination.

Bob Rowe  
Sacramento, California

### Throwaway line

[The following letter was sent to Clint Eastwood]

The other day I rented a copy of *Space Cowboys* hoping I would enjoy it, which I did — until a scene midway through the film when the character played by Tommy Lee Jones, anticipating a fight, speaks of kicking his opponent's "faggot ass."

There being no indication that the other character (played by yourself) was actually homosexual (quite the contrary), the line served no function other than to arbitrarily denigrate gay people and perpetuate the kind of wanton violence that has resulted in the murders of Brandon Teena and Matthew Shepard, to name but two "faggots" whose "asses" were kicked.

I do not believe that you, the successful director of another movie which compassionately exposes the tragic murder of an actual homosexual (*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*), as well as the benefactor of a center for youth, would seriously advocate violence against an oppressed minority, any more than you would have allowed the same character in *Space Cowboys*, a southerner, speak of kicking his opponent's "nigger ass."

Yet this is the ultimate effect such a throwaway line ultimately has.

I refer you to the films *The Celluloid Closet* (and its famous "faggot montage") and the Academy Award-winning *Boys Don't Cry*, if you need further clarification in the matter.

Charles Le Chat  
San Jose, California

### Supports legislation

I am in support of the TIC legislation before the Board of Supervisors. As a volunteer tenant counselor in the Castro, and as a Castro resident, I know that this neighborhood has the highest rate of TIC/Ellis Act evictions of all the districts in the city. I hope that my supervisor, Mark Leno, will remember his promise a year ago that he would support Sue Bierman's TIC legislation. We need this legislation because of the disproportionately high displacement of low/fixed income and LGBT renters.

John Tunui  
San Francisco

### Culture alive and well

Wow! I had no idea that Ellis Act evictions are responsible for the large numbers of SUVs on our streets, as reported by Katie Szymanski [*"TIC control battle heats up," April 19*]. In the same lead sentence she states that these evictions are "leaving the city devoid of culture and teeming with homelessness." In fact, culture is alive and well, as attested to by your thriving Arts & Entertainment section, and homelessness was a problem long before draconian city rent controls forced owners who wish to take control of their own property to resort to the state's Ellis Act.

Perhaps Szymanski, in her pro-tenant zeal, simply neglected to note that these outrageous statements are

actually just the hyperbole of the tenant activists whose viewpoint she so obviously shares. To help readers distinguish opinion from factual reporting, it would be helpful if you'd label her future columns on rent control "commentary."

D.W. Wade  
San Francisco

[Katie Szymanski responds: Check the Chronicle and other news sources and you'll find the same "commentary" about the city's eviction crisis.]

### TIC doesn't equal eviction

If you are going to continue to print the quotes (lies) coming out of the SFTU about the number of Ellis Act evictions, please also print the actual numbers (facts). It is sad to see that the SFTU feels the need to exaggerate the actual numbers in order to make their case.

You should also look into how many of the people that have purchased TICs in the last five years still live in those TICs. I personally know a few people that have purchased homes through TIC over the last eight years and they are all still living in those units.

The SFTU also needs to stop trying to make it appear that TIC is equal to an automatic eviction. TIC does not automatically result in an eviction. When we bought into our TIC, no one was evicted and we actually vacated three San Francisco rental units in order to move into our new home that we own and pay the city tax on.

District 8 voted no on Proposition N. I sure hope Mr. Leno listens to the majority of the voters.

James J. Cassiol  
San Francisco

### Gay bookstore thriving

The following are some comments about Paula Martinac's April 12 column in the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Look ahead, not back, for the future of gay bookstores":

1. There are some of us "community oriented" LGBT bookstores that are surviving quite well. Not only have our in-store sales shown gains, but also our Web site ([www.openbookltd.com](http://www.openbookltd.com)) is thriving. We do offer areas for reviews and comments about books, offer not only the latest small publisher's and self-published selections, and have positioned ourselves to embrace the latest changes in the publishing industry (print-on-demand titles) and are looking ahead to e-books.

2. Most of the stores that have experienced financial problems did not have the financial resources available that are available to the large chains and "straight" bookstores. The reasons are simple; most financial institutions are "conservative and straight acting" and are reluctant to loan money to or invest into a gay- or lesbian-owned bookstore. We can assure you that if we had access to \$2 billion (as Amazon did) to develop a Web site, and didn't concern ourselves with making a profit, we would have one "kick-ass" operation.

3. You mentioned the advantages of having GLBT libraries and yes, there are more and more of these libraries being developed across the country. We know this because we get requests for donations from most of them. The truth of the matter is that most of these libraries do not have the resources to buy the books, and have to rely upon donations.

4. The need for the independent and specialty LGBT bookstores to serve as a community resource and gathering location has not been lessened. It is true that LGBT community centers are popping up throughout the country. But we have found that the community centers serve an entirely different function. The smaller communities where many of these LGBT bookstores are located cannot support a specialized LGBT bookstore, it is only in the medium sized and large communities where a LGBT bookstore can survive as a specialty store without branching out into other markets. Here in Sacramento, it has been the community center that was floundering (hopefully now recovering), and to be quite honest about it, it had affected our business. Time and time again we have heard that many gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people are moving to Sacramento because it has affordable housing, good job market, outdoor recreation close by, and a great bookstore. Where do most of these people stop first when arriving at or investigating Sacramento? The local bookstore, where they can find the local newspapers, want ads, housing information, and other community information. Many people have said that they have moved to Sacramento because of The Open Book, Ltd.

All in all I feel it is good that writers are starting to address the issues of the loss of the independent bookstores, but unless the journalists are willing to get away from the word processor, get out into the real world and start looking at the total picture and not just the tip of the iceberg, we are going to see a lot more closures before things get better. There are many things happening and changes being made in the publishing industry that can either be the "light at the end of the tunnel" or a "locomotive wiping out everything in its path."

Larry Bailey, The Open Book, Ltd.  
Sacramento, California



## POLITICS

# Migden and Shelley both in state races

by Wayne Friday

Both San Francisco members of the Assembly, who are being termed out of office, will be candidates for state office in the March 2002 Democratic primary.

Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** (13th District) will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the State Board of Equalization in the 1st District, which runs from Santa Cruz County in the south all the way up to the Oregon border and as far east as Yolo County, representing nearly 10 million people. The powerful Board of Equalization is a state constitutional office that is responsible for setting California's tax policy.

As a member of the BOE, Migden would oversee a massive tax system that supports hundreds of state and local government services, including schools, hospitals, law enforcement, transportation, and housing programs. Migden is currently in her third term as chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is responsible for overseeing the allocation of the state's tremendous \$100 billion budget.

The 1st District BOE seat is currently held by **Johan Klehs**, who is running for state controller in 2002. Migden, one of the Assembly's most respected members, if elected to the four-year term, would be the first woman to be elected to the BOE post and the first member of the gay and lesbian community to hold a state constitutional office. Migden is expected to have only minimal opposition in the 2002 primary, but will face a Republican in the November general election.

Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley**, a native San Franciscan, who like Migden, served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors before entering the Legislature, will be a candidate for California secretary of state in next March's Democratic primary. Shelley, the majority leader of the Assembly, is facing a tough primary fight from four other Democrats: former Secretary of State **March Fong Eu**; former Insurance Commissioner **John Garamendi**; **Michela Alioto**, the 1998 nominee for the office; and Southern California Assemblyman **Tony Cardenas**, the current Democratic Assembly Caucus chair.

Shelley, whose father, **Jack Shelley**, served as a former mayor of San Francisco, will make his candidacy official on May 11. Shelley has the endorsements of U.S. Senators **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante**, state Treasurer **Phil Angelides**, state Senators **John Burton** and **Sheila Kuehl**, Mayor **Willie Brown**, and numerous fellow Assembly members, including Migden.

## Supes' first 100 days

This column had been contemplating doing a "first 100 days" item on the current Board of Supervisors, and since the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* beat me to it last week, I'll do it anyway.

With the help of a couple of City Hall regulars who closely observe the board, along with some private views of some of the members themselves, here is the snap view of the new board:

**Tom Ammiano**: A serious, hard-working member who occasionally lets out slips-of-the-tongue directed at other members, Ammiano was unanimously elected president in January, but a couple now tell me that if they had it to do over again, they might have voted differently. Ammiano has become something of a reasoned voice on the board, particularly in helping smooth the overblown rift between fellow

supe **Chris Daly** and the mayor. The new board definitely makes Ammiano a much more powerful San Francisco political player, but if there is one downfall that some colleagues will tell you about — privately — it is that he can't always be

taken at his word. Ammiano is definitely looking at another run for mayor.

**Chris Daly**: Young, smart, works hard at being the champion of the homeless, poor, the forgotten in the city and is generally well liked by his colleagues. However, some will tell you that Daly makes too much of reminding everyone that he resides in "a small studio apartment in the Tenderloin," where even he "has trouble paying the high rents of the city." We can all agree that rents are much too high in San Francisco. The question is when is someone going to do something about it. Daly, if he wants one, should have a future in local politics.

**Matt Gonzalez**: Obviously a good attorney, but some on the board complain privately that he is often "too lawyerly," and is prone to cross-examining everyone and everything. Some say Gonzalez seems always to be the "angry young man," anxious to engage in confrontation with department heads and others with whom he seems to be unhappy. Gonzalez would likely be a good district attorney if that is where he is headed, but will not make it as a member of the Green Party.

**Tony Hall**: The *Guardian* shrugged off this guy by saying they "have no idea where he thinks he's going and doubt that he does either." I agree. Watching Hall is, at best, painful, and if only he could hear what some of his colleagues say about him.

**Mark Leno**: Definitely one of the best of the group; Leno comes to work always prepared for the issues, and as one member told us: "When Leno gives you his word, you can take it to the bank." The *Guardian* noted that Leno "remains one of the most inoffensive of the board veterans, holding the middle ground and rising above the fray." Again, we agree. With few political enemies, Leno looks to be headed to replace Carole Migden in the city's 13th Assembly District next year.

**Sophie Maxwell**: The lone African American and the lone woman on the 11-member board, Maxwell is well liked, highly respected, hard-working, has few, if any political detractors, and is a

refreshing addition to the board.

**Jake McGoldrick**: Most call him a nice guy, but he is prone to asking far too many questions, often turning every committee meeting or general meeting into an extended question-and-answer period. If you keep repeating "I'm a rookie here, I just don't understand" often enough, people will soon believe that you truly "don't understand."

**Gavin Newsom**: Not especially popular with the newer members, but very smart and always seems well-prepared to discuss any issue. Ambitious, Newsom is another supe whose word is always good. Nearly everyone I know says that Newsom, frustrated with the new board, is looking to run for mayor the next time around.

**Aaron Peskin**: One of the board's best. Peskin is a bright guy who wants to make some real reforms but knows how hard to push for them and when to pull back. He doesn't unnecessarily get into confrontations with colleagues; he's a good, solid addition to this Board of Supervisors.

**Gerardo Sandoval**: Another obviously good lawyer who has the tendency to often speak to his colleagues like one. Not particularly popular with his fellow members, Sandoval works hard at the job. Of those we asked, few had anything much to say — pro or con — about this guy — "he's just sorta here," one board member said. Sandoval is already thought to be looking at higher office, possible the 12th Assembly District.

**Leland Yee**: Once thought to be a political foe of the mayor, Yee is a talented political opportunist and is now reportedly close to Mayor Brown. A veteran of city politics, I must point out, as did the *Guardian*, that Yee was the only supervisor to vote against an appropriation of funds for senior services (go figure). Yee is also expected to run for Assembly next year in the 12th District.

## Politics and people

My sources in Washington, D.C. have learned that President **George W. Bush** has refused to overturn an executive order issued by former President **Bill Clinton** that prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation in federal employment.

Former San Francisco Supervisor **Harry Britt** is reportedly thinking of entering the race for termed-out Carole Migden's 13th District Assembly seat. Britt is a political ally of board President Tom Ammiano, and that would surely mean that Ammiano has decided to forsake the 13th District in favor of another run for mayor.

The San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans will host former Navy Petty Officer **Keith Meinhold** tonight (Thursday, April 26, 6 pm) at their meeting to be held at The Sausage Factory, 517 Castro Street. The meeting will be a no-host bar with hosted hors d'oeuvres with the entire \$30 admission going to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Congratulations to Assistant District Attorney **Charles "Chuck" Haines** on his recent appointment to the S.F. Superior Court by Governor **Gray Davis**; an excellent appointment.

And how was your week? ▼

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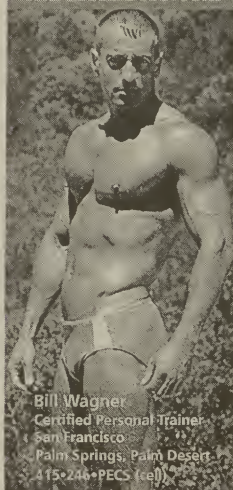


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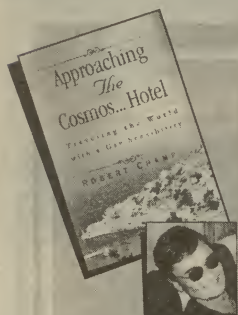
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# MTFs understand being 'real' women

by Paula Martinac

Are transsexual women "real" women? It's a tedious question that male to female transsexuals often run up against when they're open and honest about their personal history. But the life experiences of many MTFs make them more aware of how gender roles and sexism work than a lot of so-called "real" women.

I've never met a transsexual woman who didn't have a feminist consciousness. I'm sure there are some, but it makes perfect sense that many transwomen would be attracted to feminism as a philosophy. After all, feminism by definition seeks to break down the barriers society has set up based on gender.

It's infuriating, then, that some feminists and lesbians continue to question the "womanhood" of MTFs. I support the concept of "women-only space," but I'm concerned that this legitimate policy is sometimes used to discriminate against transwomen.

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, for example, still maintains a policy of trans-exclusion

that sounds eerily like the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the U.S. military. An official festival handout states, "No woman's gender will be questioned on the land." However, the flyer goes on, the festival has the right to deny admission "to individuals who self-declare as male-to-female transsexuals." In theory, one

of Fred Phelps's daughters could attend Michigan, while an open feminist transwoman could not.

In another galling example, a women's rape crisis center in British Columbia recently refused to allow Kimberly Nixon, a transsexual woman, to train as a peer counselor. The staff assumed she wouldn't

understand violence against women because she was born male. According to a center spokesperson, Nixon could not possibly have faced the unique mix of social, psychological, and biological factors that "shape women's experiences and ... the world's perception of us."

But, in fact, the experience of many transsexual women turns the meaning of being "born" female or male upside down. Many MTFs talk about knowing they were "female" from a very young age. "Growing up," Nixon told a reporter for *Canadian Press*, "I had the sense and burden of being female and the burden of being aware of ... all the issues women deal with."

The exclusionary policies that feminist and lesbian groups institute toward transsexual women rest on two false premises. First of all, because the world once viewed MTFs as boys and men, it's assumed that they enjoyed male privilege. Yet the opposite may actually be true, given the many stories transsexual women tell about the intense gender oppression they experienced before surgery.

According to Australian trans-feminist Julie Peters, transgender women who grow up male tend to be regarded "as feminine or different boys and are denied entry into male power structures; they are vilified, ostracized, and bashed." Misunderstood or rejected by their families, they sometimes take to the streets, where they're at



Christine Smith

high risk for drugs and

prostitution and often learn early on about sexual violence, just like many girls do.

The second false premise is that only "real" women can fully comprehend female oppression. But what about the "real" women who think feminism has nothing to do with their lives? And don't forget the "women-born women" who actively oppose abortion rights, or who accept their church's dictate that wives submit to their husbands, or who voted for George W. Bush.

Now compare those "real" women with trans-activist Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC. In a recent editorial, Wilchins called on activists to build "a broad-based and inclusive national movement for gender rights." Gender, Wilchins states, is a basic human right that unites everyone from "a boy-dyke with buzz-cut blue hair" to "an FTM fired for transitioning on the job" to "a soccer mom banging her head on the glass ceiling" to "a gay man genderbashed ... because some bigot thinks homosexuals are unmanly."

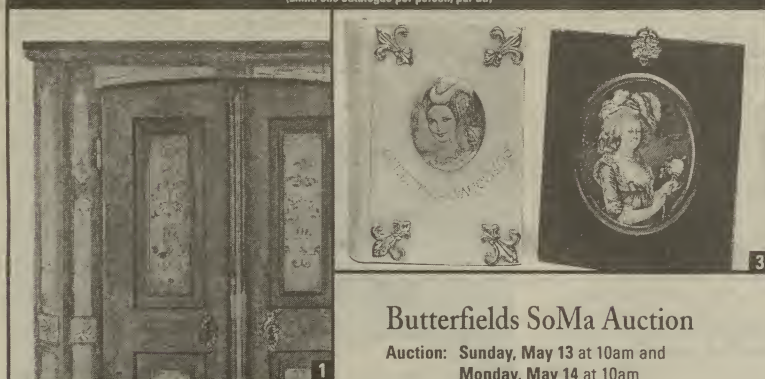
We can learn a lot from reading the work of cutting-edge activists like Wilchins. But even older transwomen, who transitioned long before the founding of the National Organization for Women or the riots at the Stonewall Inn, have gone through their own transformative process and come out as feminists.

In an engaging new memoir called *The Woman I Was Not Born to Be*, Aleshia Brevard, a former drag performer and actor, describes her own personal journey. Glancing through the book's photos of Brevard boasting long, painted nails and a cinched-in, hourglass figure, you might be tempted to rehash the old feminist complaint that MTFs simply reinforce gender stereotypes rather than break them down.

But, in fact, Brevard has a

page 12 ►

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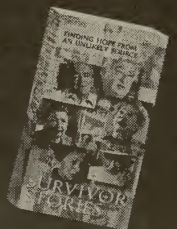
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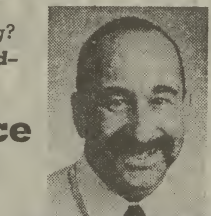
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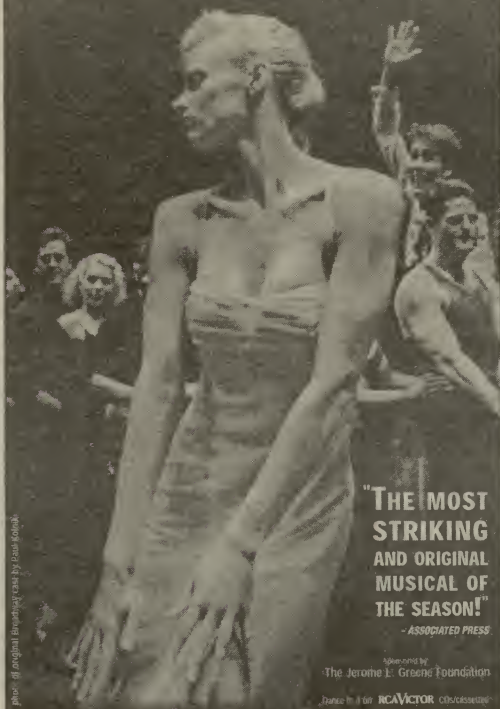
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Where does the word  
'dyke' come from?

by Rawley Grau

Over the past three decades, the word "dyke" has steadily gained currency in the gay and lesbian community, though it retains some rough edges. Unlike "lesbian," which boasts a well-documented, almost genteel pedigree reaching back to classical antiquity, "dyke" has only recently stepped off the streets and no one seems sure of its origins. But there have been some interesting hypotheses.

Older women will remember when "dyke," like its gay male counterpart "faggot," was almost always a term of abuse, pronounced with a mixture of disdain and fear about women who tried to act like men — in the clothes they wore, their mode of speech, and the way they courted other women. Lesbians rarely used the word; women who assumed masculine ways would usually call themselves "butches" or, especially among African American lesbians, "studs."

In the 1970s, however, lesbian activists sought to reclaim the word as a term of self-identification signifying allegiance to a woman-centered culture. In the mid 1970s, for example, lesbian separatist Elana Nachman started writing her books under the surname "Dykewoman" (later modified to "Dykewoman"). Soon, women began to wonder about the origins of the word. As bibliographer J.R. Roberts observed in 1979, "our generation of Lesbians has been stymied, mystified, and intensely curious as to how and why we have come to call ourselves dykes."

## Suggested reading

Grahn, Judy, 1990. *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds*. Updated and revised edition. Boston: Beacon Press.

Roberts, J.R., 1979. "In America They Call Us Dykes: Notes on the Etymology and Usage of 'Dyke,'" *Sinister Wisdom*, 9: 3-11.

San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project, 1989. "She Even Chewed Tobacco": A Pictorial Narrative of Passing Women in America," in *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*, edited by Martin Baum Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey, Jr. New York: New American Library.

Not only lesbians, but lexicographers, too, have been stymied over the word "dyke," though they generally agree that the lesbian meaning is unrelated to the word meaning "embankment," as in the dikes that keep the sea from flooding Holland. Today, we often distinguish the two homonyms in spelling, but that seems to be a recent and rather arbitrary practice; both words have in the past been spelled with both "i" and "y."

The earliest confirmed references to "dyke" with the meaning "butch lesbian" date only to the 1920s, when it appears in African American slang as "bull-dyke," with the variations "bull-dyker," "bull-dagger," and "boon-dagger." In 1935, blues singer Bessie Jackson recorded "B-D Woman," a song about women who "ain't gonna need no men": "B-D women, they can lay their claim, / They can lay that jive just like a natural man," she sings, praising the bull-dyke's sexual prowess.

In the absence of any obvious etymology, several theories have arisen to explain the origins of "dyke." One hypothesis, proposed in 1975 by Harold Wentworth and Stuart B. Flexner in their *Dictionary of American Slang*, views the word as a contraction of "hermaphrodite," positing an intermediate form such as "morphodike." But although the "hermaphrodite" — someone who appeared to be half-man and half-woman — was a popular feature of circus sideshows, there's little evidence that the word was ever widely applied to mannish women outside the carnival circuit.

Lesbian poet and cultural theorist Judy Grahn conceived a much richer history in her influential book, *Another Mother Tongue*, first published in 1979. Grahn found in the word "bull-dyke" an echo of the name of the British warrior-queen Boudica (more commonly spelled Boudicca or Boadicea), who led an uprising against Roman invaders in 61 A.D. According to Grahn, the name "Boudica" circulated underground for centuries as code for a strong female rebel until eventually it became "bull-dyke."

Grahn's evocative etymology transforms a word of abuse into a word of empowerment, and that no doubt was its primary purpose. But this "dyke" doesn't hold water. Grahn's theory doesn't explain why Boudica's name took over 1,800 years to resurface, and then did so not in England, but among African Americans. Similar problems, and similar good intentions, come with the speculation that "dyke" harks back to the

Greek word for "justice," *dike* (pronounced DEE-kay), associated with the warrior-goddess Athena.

Roberts, the bibliographer, has proposed what may be the most credible theory. She discovered that 19th century dictionaries of American slang listed "dike" with the meaning "a man in full dress, or merely the set of male clothing itself." In 1902, a slang dictionary derived the word from the archaic "dight," "to deck or adorn." A man dressed to the nines was said to be "diked out" (compare our present-day "decked out"). Significantly, this usage was uniquely American.

According to Roberts, "dike" eventually came to be applied pejoratively to women who were dressed up — or "diked out" — in male clothing, either because they were attempting to pass as men or because they wanted to make a political or artistic statement. "Thus *dike*, once used to describe a well-dressed male, becomes a vulgar and hateful epithet to be hurled at women who rebel against confining roles and dress styles," Roberts writes. Among African Americans, "bull—" was added to underscore the manliness of such women; the prefix may have also alluded to their perceived sexual voracity.

This theory explains not only the American provenance of the term, but also why it was applied almost exclusively to butch women, not lesbians in general — at least until the 1970s, when activists embraced the word "dyke" as a designation of pride.

Popularized by such things as Dyke TV, dyke marches, and Alison Bechdel's comic strip, "Dykes to Watch Out For" (where not all the "dykes" are butch), today the word is fast becoming an accepted synonym for "lesbian." Nevertheless, it may not be quite ready for polite society. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at [GayNestor@aol.com](mailto:GayNestor@aol.com). For more Past Out, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).

## Lesbian Notions

◀ page 10

strong feminist sensibility. After transitioning, she slowly came to realize that the role she envisioned for herself as a Donna Reed-style wife was too limited. Instead of clinging to the belief that "a good woman must be docile and long suffering" and invariably attached to a man, she recognized that she could be happily fulfilled as an independent woman.

The liberation of her mind, Brevard says, took much longer than the physical reconstruction of her body. Her experiences and those of other transwomen hold important lessons for feminists and lesbians who remain stubbornly hung up on biology. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LNColumm@aol.com](mailto:LNColumm@aol.com). For more Lesbian Notions, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).

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# C GAY paves way for gay groups in French enterprise

by David Fraser

It started as a joke; it's turned into a movement.

A couple of years ago, Vincent Dariosecq was sitting around with some of his gay friends, after a day's work at Canal+, a major French television network with more than 4,000 employees.

"We were chatting and joking, saying why didn't we create a gay and lesbian association in our company," Dariosecq said in an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* during his San Francisco visit last week. "It was a joke, the first time. But I took it very seriously."

C GAY – the first gay/lesbian association within a major French enterprise – was launched at Canal+ a year ago last week, on April 16, 2000.

"A few gays and lesbians at Canal+ had a crazy idea," says the introduction on C GAY's French home page, [www.cplus.fr/html/courts/cveg/html/cgay.html](http://www.cplus.fr/html/courts/cveg/html/cgay.html). (The English Web site is at [www.cplus.com/extra\\_en/cveg-us/html/cgay.html](http://www.cplus.com/extra_en/cveg-us/html/cgay.html).)

The group started with 10 people and has blossomed to a membership of around 50.

While this may not sound earth shattering to some American ears, it is a big, big step in France. Canal+ is the world's second largest pay TV network, said Dariosecq, who is an assistant programming coordinator and the first president of C GAY. Homophobia keeps many French people in the corporate closet, especially in public or service departments like marketing and public relations.

In the gay context, Dariosecq said, France resembles the United States. "Paris is Paris. It's somewhat like San Francisco, where gay life is accepted. As soon as you go some kilometers outside, or go to the countryside, aside from some big cities like Lille, Lyon, Marseille, being open is much more difficult."

## Like a pig to truffles

What's important is that the notion of openly queer groups within major commercial and political enterprises has now spread



C GAY's Vincent Dariosecq

across the economic landscape and is taking root.

"The existence of C GAY is already a political act in and of itself," said a writer in the *Ibiza News* last summer.

Within six months of the announcement last March, gay-lesbian organizations began to appear in key sectors of the complex French economy.

First was SNCF, the massive national railway firm, whose group calls itself "Gare" (Station). The railway company is "80 percent men," said Dariosecq, smiling.

Next came the RATP, which runs the French Métro transit system. Then, perhaps not surprising in Paris, which just elected its first openly gay mayor, the "fonctionnaires" or city employees started their own association.

Asked if Mayor Bertrand Delanoë would be joining the Paris group, Dariosecq said that politicians are required to maintain a

degree of neutrality that precludes them from joining, but "they can be friends" with such groups.

Like Canal+, these entities are major players in the French political economy. Dariosecq hopes the next to come will be Air France; from San Francisco he has been in touch with a key counterpart in Paris, hoping that the airline will allow creation of a gay-lesbian association in time to participate in the Paris Gay Pride festivities on June 23.

C GAY will run a float on a flatbed rig, featuring – what else? – a TV studio. Gare will run a model of the TGV, France's super-speed train, and the Paris Métro firm will run a bus.

Muni, take note.

## Olympic potential?

The group's vision of political activism does not stop at encouraging replication. Paris is competing to get the rights for the 2008 Olympic Games and Dariosecq hopes C GAY will have a presence there.

"If we do get the Olympics, we will organize with the gay and lesbian communities" for a role, still unspecified.

On a broad scale, the next step is outreach to other European companies and also to American firms. Dariosecq's San Francisco visit included tours to Bay Area television and radio stations.

At Canal+, C GAY is making itself known. The group's main objectives are to represent gays and lesbians within the network, and to fight against homophobia "in certain sections of the company, making it possible for everyone to feel comfortable in his or her professional environment," according to the C GAY English home page.

Dariosecq said the intention was to create good working conditions "so people won't have to hide," especially in the service departments where "it's difficult to be out."

Generally within French industry, he said, highly visible company officials who are queer tend to conceal their sexuality. "If your boss is homophobic," said Dariosecq, "you will not advance, as a

page 19 ►

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VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs.

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit [www.viracept.com](http://www.viracept.com).

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## VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate) Tablets and Oral Powder Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)  
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Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs** such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)  
Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as  
Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex, and others  
Ergot derivatives (Cafegor® and others, for migraine headaches)  
Halcion® (triazolam)  
Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®  
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

**Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:** Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

**A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:**

Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)  
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

### Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)

EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC®)

Zert® (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:**

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with Viramune® (nevirapine) The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

### Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir® (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

### Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

### Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

### Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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# Drug companies drop South Africa lawsuit

by S. Predrag

**A**IDS activists and human rights campaigners exploded with joy when it was announced on Thursday, April 19, that 39 multinational pharmaceutical companies had unconditionally dropped their lawsuit against the South African government, which wanted to provide cheaper versions of brand name AIDS drugs for its 4.7 million AIDS sufferers.

The companies said that they would meet all the legal costs in this landmark case to secure medication for Africa's 26 million HIV carriers.

The leader of the South African Treatment Action Campaign, Zackie Achmat, who is himself HIV-positive, said that, "This is a real triumph of David over Goliath, not only for us here in South Africa, but for people in many other developing countries who are struggling for access to health care."

Most analysts believe that, although the challenge was focused specifically on the South African legislation, the repercussions will be felt by the whole of the developing world struggling to obtain not only antiretroviral drugs for treating AIDS, but also basic medicines for infections linked to HIV, like tuberculosis and meningitis.

In a joint statement, the drug giants — including Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck of the United States — recognized that the Republic of South Africa "may enact national laws or regulations including regulations implementing Act 90 of 1997 or adopt measures necessary to protect public health



South African Health Minister Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimong

and broaden access to medicine in accordance with the South African constitution and the Agreement of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights — TRIPS." In other words, South Africa can produce or import cheap generic AIDS drugs.

Earlier, some multinational drug companies were charging up to \$15,000 for the triple combination treatment per AIDS patient per year, while some companies in India, Brazil, and Thailand were selling generic drugs for \$600 or even \$250 per patient per year.

In Africa, which is home to about 26 million HIV-positive people, most of the population has an income of one U.S. dollar per day.

"The outcome of the case signals a dramatic shift in the balance of power between developing states and drug companies," Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres, and TAC said in a joint statement.

"It sends a clear signal to the African heads of state that lives should and can take precedence over patents."

The South African Health Minister, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, told the media outside the court that, "This is a victory not just for South Africa, but for Africa and the whole developing world... I would like to say thank you to the whole world for supporting us." She insisted that the government had not agreed to any deals in exchange for the companies to drop their case.

However, in the joint statement, President Thabo Mbeki's government reiterated its commitment to honor its international obligations, including TRIPS.

After a long night of celebrations, the next morning following the court victory some AIDS activists, including Achmat, admitted that, "The difficult job starts now."

He was referring to the need to mobilize all resources to provide antiretroviral medication to as many people as possible in South Africa, where up to 5,000 people die every week of AIDS and AIDS-related diseases.

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), supported the pharmaceutical companies' decision to drop the lawsuit. "Addressing the issue of access to affordable life-saving HIV/AIDS medicines and technologies is only one part of our comprehensive strategy to combating AIDS, but it is a crucial one," said Lee. "We must not tolerate the current policy that dictates that life with a manageable illness is possible if you are wealthy, but death from AIDS is certain if you are poor." ▼

## Sheriff negligent in Brandon Teena death

by Katie Szymanski

**E**ight years after a brutal rape and his senseless murder, Brandon Teena received a smattering of justice last Friday, April 20, when the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that a former sheriff who should have protected the transgender man was instead negligent and responsible for his death.

In what was perhaps the most validating moment for the victim since the movie *Boys Don't Cry* won critical acclaim and an Academy Award last year, the high court's ruling reversed a lower court decision that held Brandon Teena partially responsible for his own death, awarding \$80,000 to

his mother Joann Brandon, plus damages for emotional distress.

"I am so happy today," Joann Brandon said in a statement. "Nothing will bring Teena back, but I will sleep better knowing that we have found some justice for her. And because of this case, fewer parents will find their children abused and exposed to danger by law enforcement officials."

It was 1993 when Brandon Teena was raped by two male acquaintances after they discovered his female genitalia. But it was reporting the rape to authorities that ultimately led to his death: Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux not only scoffed at Brandon Teena and questioned his gender appearance, but told the perpetrators about the rape

report. A week later, those men tracked Brandon Teena down and shot him and two friends to death.

Laux was "demeaning, accusatory, and intimidating," the court said in its ruling, calling him more concerned with the victim's sexuality than the rape.

Dozens of civil rights groups, including the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and GenderPAC, filed briefs in the case.

Brandon Teena's killers remain in prison, one with a life sentence and the other facing the death penalty. But most significant in the whole ordeal is the fact that a court has finally said that being transgender does not make one's life less worthy of protection. ▼

## Toledo quits

◀ page 1

news conference held at the National Press Club on April 25, 2000, even before she began her official duties, did nothing to allay skeptics' reservations. She looked like a deer in the headlights trying to handle even the most basic questions concerning the gay and lesbian community. And she constantly had to refer to staff for answers.

Colleagues at other organizations that work with NGLTF, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that Toledo's limited knowl-

edge and experience working in the gay and lesbian community hampered her effectiveness over the last year. They were not surprised by her departure.

Clark said that Toledo's recent coming out had not hindered her effectiveness at the task force. He seemed genuinely surprised by her resignation.

Stretching back into the 1980s, the last six executive directors at NGLTF have been female. That has prompted some to ask if a "males need not apply" sign hangs outside the office.

Clark was familiar with the criticism. He said that he would be "delighted" if the next executive

director were male, but that they would continue to hire the best person for the job, regardless of gender. He pointed out that there is rough gender parity in senior level positions within the organization.

Some are speculating that political director McFeeley has the inside track to be named executive director. That would perhaps explain why he joined the task force staff last January. He served more than five years as executive director of what was then called the Human Rights Campaign Fund, now called the Human Rights Campaign, stepping down at the end of 1994. ▼

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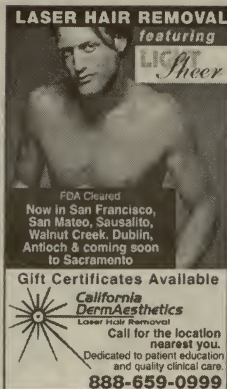
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# Barney Frank addresses marijuana, privacy, and medicine

by Bob Roehr

Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) was critical of the country's drug laws when he addressed the annual conference of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws on Saturday, April 21 in Washington, D.C.

"Ninety-plus percent of the examples we have of police practices that violate privacy are driven by the drug laws," Frank said. "If any one of us goes outside and is robbed, mugged, or our cars are vandalized, we become the best friends of the police" and try to help them, he said. But with victimless crimes such as recreational drug use, "normal police techniques don't work, there are no complaining witnesses. The police are driven to violate people's privacy by the nature of the so-called crime."

"I do not advocate people using various mind-altering substances, the less of that you do, the better," he said, including tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana on that list. "The disparity with which we treat marijuana compared to alcohol and tobacco can only be explained by the fact that marijuana has historically been seen by a lot of Americans as a badge of the counterculture," from jazz musicians and people of color in the 1930s to the hippies and protesters of the 1960s.

Frank said conservatives have argued that federal programs such as those for the homeless, welfare, and public housing have spent billions of dollars without measurably changing the situation, therefore the programs are ineffective and should be cut. "Nowhere is that analogy more conclusive than

with the drug wars," yet conservatives continue advocate spending even more on those failed policy.

He credited conservatives with having "accurately educated America as to the power of the free market. It is the case that if a large number of people have money and the desire to buy something, then it is very hard for government to get in their way. They absolutely ignore that fact when it comes to the drug program."

"I do not think that there is a dumber policy pursued by any government anywhere in the world than for the United States to try physically to keep drugs out of America." He thought that the military, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and other agencies could probably keep all horses from being brought into the country. "But as the commodity to be brought is more easily concealed, the percentage is going to go up. ... If you can't keep drugs out of a maximum security prison, how the hell are you going to keep them out of Texas?"

Frank believes that a states' rights approach makes legal sense in areas such as medical marijuana, where the direct effect of the policy does not extend across state borders. He chastised conservatives who embrace this argument when it comes to issues they favor, such as the death penalty, but then call for federal intervention when voters pass referenda on medical marijuana as has happened in California and a handful of other states. "You can't turn that on and off, it's not a water faucet," he said.

Frank introduced the States' Rights to Medical Marijuana Act (HR1344), along with nine cosponsors, on April 3. It would amend the Controlled Substances

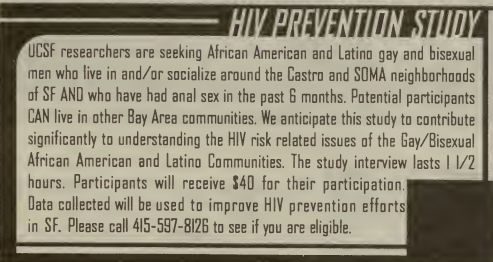
Act to move marijuana from Schedule I to a Schedule II. And it would allow physicians to prescribe or recommend marijuana as therapy as applicable under state law.

He believes that several themes resonate well with the American public. One that he urged advocates to emphasize is the correlation of privacy violations by the government with the drug war. Another is the huge amount of money wasted on interdiction, prosecution, and imprisonment of people for drug use.

Frank called for traditional lobbying techniques of writing and visiting their elected officials. He downplayed the role that money plays in politics, particularly on this issue. "Money will not beat public opinion."

When audience members asked about the need for large demonstrations to show visibility, citing what the gay community had done in this area, Frank was withering in his criticism. He said that the largest of them, the 1993 March on Washington, "came and went and left no trace" in the halls of Congress. Furthermore, the media will focus on the "wackos." With the gay march, "it was the guys in dog collars and jock straps, I don't think that is helpful." While opposed to mass demonstrations, he thought that coming out as "smokers" to friends and relatives was helpful.

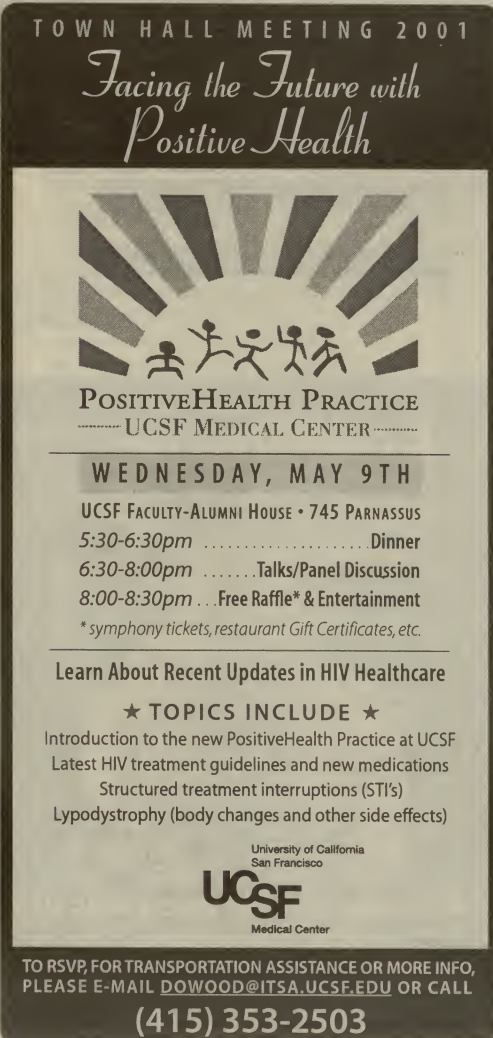
The public is ahead of politicians on this issue, said Frank, "They know what works and what doesn't work." He pointed to election results in states where medical marijuana has been on the ballot. And he closed by saying, "We have the opportunity to make American drug policy less stupid." ▼



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## NORML confab tackles medical pot

by Bob Roehr

Western medicine has relied upon plants as the basis for much of its work, taking extracts and making synthetic versions of what is found in nature, Dr. John Morgan, a pharmacologist at the CUNY medical school, explained to those attending the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws annual convention in Washington, D.C., on April 20.

The main active ingredient in marijuana appears to be the cannabinoid known by the chemical shorthand of THC, though many argue that some of the other cannabinoid molecules found in the plant may also play a medicinal role. Marinol is the trade name of the synthetic version of THC approved for sale in this country under strict regulation.

Morgan said, and many who have used it agree, that Marinol is a heavy-handed approach. Only one dosing strength is available and it takes a long time to be absorbed and metabolized by the body. Other methods of administration, such as a vaporizer/inhaler, a liquid suspension held under the tongue, or perhaps a

skin patch similar to one used to stop smoking, might offer more immediate and better calibrated delivery of cannabinoids. But government restrictions have inhibited such research.

He concluded, "The government's decision to prosecute marijuana smokers [while licensing the sale of Marinol] is akin to encouraging the taking of synthetic vitamin C by outlawing orange juice."

California researcher Dale Gieringer is working on ways to make inhaled marijuana safer by reducing or eliminating the cancer causing byproducts associated with all smoked materials. He said researchers first tried water pipes but found that water filtered out the THC as well as the carcinogens. People simply smoked more to get the required effect of THC and there was no net gain in safety.

He held up an "M-1 volatizer," calling it "basically a high tech cigarette lighter." The prototype heats marijuana to a temperature sufficient to turn cannabinoids into a gas but not hot enough to do the same to benzene and other carcinogenic byproducts that come from burning materials.

Researchers have found that cannabinoids volatilize, or sepa-

rate and become airborne, at temperatures of about 180 degrees centigrade. The cancer-causing chemicals require the higher temperature associated with combustion (230 degrees centigrade) in order to form and become airborne, so none were present at the lower level. At the end of the experiment most of the cannabinoids seem to have been drawn from the marijuana, while the sample maintained its form and was still green, Gieringer said.

He showed how many medical marijuana users in California are now jerry-rigging their own volatizers. They use a paint stripper heat gun and a bong, "let it run for a few seconds [to heat the marijuana] and then inhale." He said a paint gun with a rechargeable battery "is good for 30-50 tokes."

Oakland physician Tod Mikuriya said that he has smoked marijuana since 1964, but two months ago switched to the paint gun option, "and I can moralistically say, I don't smoke marijuana."

Ethan Russo, whose research at the University of Montana focuses on herbs and natural products, said that 80 percent of migraine sufferers get systematic relief from smoking cannabis. ▼



# Religious groups offer support to Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

**G**ay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz is getting a boost from religious groups, the American Civil Liberties Union, and a former member of the parole board.

Last Wednesday, April 18, three religious denominations represented by the ACLU affiliates of Northern and Southern California, filed a brief in support of Rosenkrantz who is challenging Governor Gray Davis's decisions to block his parole. The "friend-of-the-court" brief urges the Los Angeles County Superior Court to overrule the governor and release Rosenkrantz.

The L.A. court will consider arguments on the case next month. A bail hearing scheduled for this Friday, April 27, will determine whether to release Rosenkrantz on bail pending that hearing.

In a brief telephone interview on Sunday, April 22, Rosenkrantz told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he hadn't heard about the new support.

"I've had no contact with the outside in a week," he said.

The religious groups, along with Albert M. Leddy, former chairman of the California Board of Prison Terms, said that Rosenkrantz is a victim of a policy that violates state and federal law. The religious groups include the California Council of Churches, the Board of Rabbis of Northern California, and the California Province of the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits.

"We urge Governor Davis to reconsider his policy of refusing to release inmates convicted of murder who have been recommended for parole and are not considered a danger to society," wrote Scott Anderson of the California Council of Churches in a statement released to reporters.

"The governor's policy robs so-

ciety of those inmates who are rehabilitated, remorseful, and repentant and who want to return as productive members to their communities," Anderson added. "Mr. Rosenkrantz is such a man."

Anderson told the B.A.R. that although it's often unpopular in the current political climate in California, he believes it is important for religious groups to take a stand to support basic human rights for prisoners.

"We've been very concerned about the direction of corrections in this state and that there is no money for rehabilitation and that there's no concern for the humanity of those convicted of crimes," Anderson said.

Rosenkrantz, 33, was convicted of second-degree murder for the 1985 shooting of his former schoolmate, Steve Redman, in Calabasas, in Los Angeles County. A week before the shooting, Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose and outed him to his parents. Rosenkrantz said he threatened to shoot up Redman's car if he didn't take back the outing. Rosenkrantz said he turned the gun away from the car and toward Redman and opened fire after Redman refused to take back the outing and continued to call him a faggot.

Davis spokesman Byron Tucker told the B.A.R. that the governor believes Rosenkrantz deserves to spend more time behind bars.

"This was a brutal heinous crime," said Tucker. "Mr. Rosenkrantz carefully planned, practiced, and prepared for the killing of Mr. Redman. This was a violent act. And the governor feels that Mr. Rosenkrantz is not suitable for parole."

Davis once vowed that he would never allow the parole of a convicted murderer. Tucker denied that Davis has a blanket policy against parole and said he carefully considers the merits of each case.

Since taking office two years ago, Davis has only allowed the parole of one convicted murderer. That was last fall when he allowed for the parole of a woman convicted of second-degree murder for killing her abusive boyfriend in 1985.

Although not issuing an opinion specifically on the Rosenkrantz case, the Archbishop of Los Angeles, Cardinal Roger Mahony, has strongly urged Davis to reconsider his parole policy. In a letter to Davis last October, Mahony wrote: "I would ask you to reconsider your policy that takes away the only real incentive inmates currently have to commit themselves to genuine rehabilitation."

State legislators have become increasingly frustrated over how the Davis-appointed Board of Prison Terms, as the parole board is formally known, does its job. Last week, a state Senate panel eliminated the BPT's \$28.4 million in funding for the next fiscal year. Lawmakers say they will restore the panel's budget when they get concrete answers addressing the many concerns over the department's handling of parole.

The BPT is made up of nine commissioners. Each commissioner earns an annual salary of \$99,693, not including per diem payments for travel to prisons throughout the state. ▼

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## French gays

◀ page 14

way of setting an example for other employees" who might seek to come out.

### Formation

"We decided we would form a group to defend our rights and the PACs, and to fight HIV/AIDS and homophobia," said Dariosecq.

PACs are the French legal version of domestic partners, disarmingly known in French as "concubinage" (cohabitation). PACs are recognized by the French state as a civil union roughly equivalent to marriage. But not entirely.

This may sound familiar to an American audience: the missing parts given to legally married heterosexual couples but denied to French DPs include work bonus provisions, and paid benefits for spouses including insurance and retirement.

Dariosecq, who was president for the group's first year, said C GAY is open to all and welcomes gay-friendly colleagues. It is pressing for benefits for all PACs, gay and straight.

Even within the relatively liberal Canal+ TV group, which devotes 44 percent of its program-

ming to "le cinéma," there are still stumbling blocks. Not all management is receptive to the idea of a queer association, and there are trade unions which require some convincing.

Nonetheless the top brass were amenable to the proposal from employees willing to be open about their sexuality (many more are closeted, Dariosecq noted).

"It was unthinkable for the network to refuse us," said Dariosecq. "First, we have a program where the anchor talks about gay-related information. Canal+ is the first European network to broadcast gay fiction, films, programs, documentaries. They're the number one, ahead of all the others. They could not refuse. It would be illogical."

While the group was not allowed to adopt the company's logo (for example, as C+GAY), its purple logo is featured on a page in the glossy Canal+ illustrated promotion book.

Since Dariosecq's term expired (he is now vice president), C GAY has taken another step in a country where many lesbians are closeted for fear of being judged in a largely male-dominated commercial society.

The group has elected as its new president Anne Maurice, "une lesbienne." ▼

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# Auto insurance: Don't be without it

by Kim Harris

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP:  
I was driving my friend home from a bar we go to, and it was pretty late. The streets were empty, so I was speeding a little. We saw a police car two blocks away and I slowed down. I told my friend that was pretty close, because I don't even have car insurance. But since I have HIV, I need my car to get to doctor appointments. Insurance costs a lot, and living in San Francisco is so expensive, I tend to cut corners (not while actually driving, of course). My friend hit the roof (it's a small car) when he found out I don't have insurance, and said I could be in very big trouble.

What is the problem? The car isn't even worth very much, so why bother?

Spinning My Wheels

Dear Spinning:

People with HIV, like all other Californians, must have car insurance if they own a car and drive it. California Vehicle Code section 16020 requires you to show proof that you have automobile insurance. If you are caught without it, you face the possibility of a fine of

up to \$250 and penalties like impounding your car and a notice to appear in court. If you are in an accident, you may also face civil suits from the other drivers and their insurance companies.

## You better shop around ...

If you've got to have it, you might as well get the right kind at the right price, so you better shop around. The best ways to find out about auto insurance is to talk to family members, friends, the Department of Insurance, or the insurance companies themselves and ask about their coverage options.

First, make a list of issues that are important to you. Consider your mileage and the use of your vehicle (i.e. recreational or merely transportation to and from work). There are several different coverage options to choose from. Below is a list of some common options:

- Automatic vehicle rental: after an auto accident, you will automatically receive a rental car within 48 hours and travel expenses are covered;
- Comprehensive coverage: damage due to fire or theft;
- Collision coverage: collision between two vehicles or a vehicle and object;
- Road service: mechanic assistance;
- Towing: tow vehicle from scene of accident;
- Uninsured motorist coverage,

bodily injury, and property damage: bodily injury of driver and passenger and/or property damage caused by uninsured motorist.

## A closed mouth never gets fed

Second, consider the cost of the premium. Let's be honest, times are financially straining for people in the Bay Area with the cost of housing and electricity. But for many people with HIV, owning a car is also a basic necessity—besides getting to your doctor appointments, you may need a car if

from the insurance company. However, if you choose to get a higher deductible you open the door to paying more out of pocket expenses in case of an accident.

Also inquire about discounts (i.e., senior drivers, students, multiple cars and good drivers). Under the law, good drivers (who have one or less points on their record and have been licensed for three years) must receive a 20 percent discount. If you are eligible and the insurance company refuses to comply with this law, contact the California Department of In-

Once you have the policy, don't just stick it in the drawer. Immediately read your policy to check for inaccuracies or ambiguous language. If corrections are needed, contact the company promptly. Some companies provide a period of only 10 to 30 days to request corrections or adjustments. After that time you are stuck with the policy.

Owning a car can be really important for many reasons—returning to work, getting to the doctor's office or other necessities. But if you are going to drive, you need insurance, so try to find a policy with the coverage you need at the right price. It won't do you any good if you have the insurance but can't afford the gas.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.alrp.org>. Do you have any questions you'd like answered? E-mail Ali Hall, ALRP client advocate, at: [ali@alrp.org](mailto:ali@alrp.org); for housing issues, e-mail Jason Stein, ALRP's housing attorney, at: [Jason@alrp.org](mailto:Jason@alrp.org). ALRP can be reached at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 205 13th Street, Suite 2170, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461.



## Once you have the policy, don't just stick it in the drawer.

you work, or intend to return to work. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, state law requires that drivers and vehicle owners carry the following minimum monetary monetary limits:

- \$15,000 for injury or death of one person per accident;
- \$30,000 for injury or death of two or more persons per accident;
- \$5,000 for property damage per accident.

Therefore, it is important to find a financially suitable policy. Policy rates are based on age, the driver's safety record, marital status, years of driving, annual mileage (keep in mind the less you drive the less you pay), and other factors. You can also keep costs low by having a higher deductible

insurance at 1-800-743-5000, or at [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov). Don't be afraid to ask.

Remember, a closed mouth never gets fed. If your premium is still too high consider the Department of Insurance's low-income pilot program in Los Angeles and San Francisco counties. When you renew your insurance, the California Insurance Code requires that the insurance company put in separate writing any discounts that are available to you.

## Payment options

Finally, when budgeting, consider payment periods. Inquire if there are payment period options, such as pay in full; month to month, every other month, or pay for six months at a time. Keep in mind that premiums are just like credit cards and if you don't pay the full balance, interest will be added. Another possibility is to finance your premium with a short-term loan from a bank.

## MORE THAN HALF OF ALL GAY MEN HAVE HPV. ARE YOU ONE OF THEM??

You probably know that HPV (Human Papillomavirus) can cause genital warts (condyloma). But did you know that it can also cause a pre-cancerous condition called AIN (Anal Intraepithelial Neoplasia)? You can get HPV from anal receptive intercourse, *and a condom may not protect you*. More than half of all gay men are infected with HPV and most don't even know they have it. There may be no symptoms until anal warts or AIN develop. AIN is often treated with surgery, and this can be quite painful.

Joel Palefsky, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco is participating in a research study of a non-surgical investigational drug for high grade AIN in HIV negative men.

Qualified volunteers may receive related medical services, including:

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Cameron Clark

Cameron Clark died peacefully in his sleep April 16, 2001. Known for his love of life and big heart, Cameron will be remembered by many. Memorial services will be announced. Arrangements will be handled by Arthur J. Sullivan Co. Funeral Home. Call (415) 621-4567.

## Charles A. Fulbright

Charles A. Fulbright passed away peacefully at his home in San Francisco on April 14, 2001, from complications of AIDS. Charlie was born on December



28, 1927 in Texarkana, Texas. He received his early education in Texarkana and then went to college at Texas Christian University. He then moved to Dallas for several years.

In 1959, Charlie left Dallas in search of a more liberal atmosphere and found that mecca in San Francisco. He started working at Union Fish Company shortly after arriving here and continued working as an import/export broker for more than 30 years. He retired at the age of 65 in 1993. Charlie was always interested in theater and film and participated in many gay community productions such as "Wizard of Oz," "Mame," and several productions called "Men Behind Bars." Most of these productions were fundraisers for the AIDS Emergency Fund and other AIDS charities. He was also a frequent volunteer in Rita Rockett's Brunch Bunch, providing home-made lunches for patients in the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital.

Charlie, aka Fannie, will be sorely missed by his many loving friends for his quick wit, cowboy hats and boots.

There will be a gathering of close friends to celebrate his life on Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at The Edge in the Castro, at 4149 18th St., at Collingwood, in San Francisco.

## Bruce Anthony Torell

Bruce Anthony Torell, prominent Bay Area landscape designer and founder of Chthonia, Inc., died Sunday,

April 1 of lymphoma at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.

Born and raised in Stony Brook, Long Island, New York, Mr. Torell moved to the Bay Area to attend Stanford University, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology in 1980. Subsequently, he received his certification in Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley.

At Chthonia Landscape, Mr. Torell was responsible for the success of this sought-after, East Bay-based landscape firm specializing in high-end design and execution and all aspects of creation, installation and construction. Bruce's partners at Chthonia will continue to fulfill his vision.

It was a lifelong goal of his to design and build a home in the country. This goal was realized when he and his partner of nine years, choreographer/dancer Lawrence Pech, spent two years creating and building their home by hand in Glen Ellen, California. Mr. Torell and Mr. Pech have lived there from 1997 with their dogs, Ali, Glen and Claire.

Mr. Torell is survived by his loving partner, Lawrence Pech, his parents, Margaret and Michael Torell of Palm Coast, Florida, his brother Michael Torell, sister-in-law Cathy Torell, brother- and sister-in-law David and Jennifer Pech and their children (his God-children Dillon and Mackenzie), cousins, nieces and nephews.

A memorial is being planned for later this summer and details will be announced. Contributions may be made in Mr. Torell's memory to the California Pacific Medical Center Oncology Unit, P.O. Box 7999, San Francisco, CA 94120-7999, or to Lymphoma Cancer Research.



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## Grand marshals

◀ page 1

gays and lesbians to sue for the wrongful death of a partner. Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she was "thrilled" by the news of her grand marshal victory.

"Being selected by my friends and family means the world to me," said Migden. "Pride weekend is always a momentous celebration, and I can't wait to get the party started."

The achievements of the other winners are also noteworthy. As supervisor, Leno has authored everything from medical marijuana procedures to health benefits for transgender city employees. As

an activist, Cramer served on the boards of the Names Project and the Millennium March, and currently serves on the board of the LGBT Community Center Project. As a photographer, he propelled positive images of the LGBT community into the world. Queen, well-known for her work at Good Vibrations, is also an outspoken activist and writer. And Reinhardt has raised more money for AIDS through the annual Leather Walk than any of her predecessors.

Winners in the celebrity category may or may not accept and be able to attend the celebration, but confirmation is expected within the next few weeks. Stone, wife of *San Francisco Chronicle* executive editor Phil Bronstein, is a local

celebrity. As for the organization grand marshal, Sister Kitty Catalyst called the title a "queerific honor."

"As an extra bonus, anyone who touches the hem of our habits on the parade route will have all their stigmatic guilt turned into mere fluff before the eyes of the goddess," she said.

It should be noted that this year's election was close; several contenders with brave and noble achievements missed by a matter of a few dozen votes.

Grand marshals will travel the parade route along Market Street when it kicks off on Sunday, June 24. San Francisco's Pride Parade, one of the largest events of its kind in the world, attracted over 750,000 people last year. ▼

## TG benefits

◀ page 1

ers to the overall benefits package for city employees. But it was his comments opposing the measure that caused activists and politicians to react with horror, particularly because Hall dismissed living as transgender as merely being uncomfortable with one's appearance. If transgender surgery were covered, he implied, what would stop the masses from stepping forward to demand the same coverage for their own cosmetic grievances? Genital surgery, for instance, would discriminate against non-transgenderers who want penis enlargements.

## A medical need

But hormones and surgery, explained Leno, would be covered based on a diagnosis that certifies medical need.

"We're not pulling new disorders out of the air," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This has been a recognized medically diagnosed condition for over a half century. Let's not belittle the community that is challenged by gender identity by comparing their needs to someone who wants hair transplants."

The reported comments from Hall's constituents actually "get at the core of what we're talking about," said Leno, "which is affording people respect and dignity for who they are."

"The supervisor's questions at the board meeting inspired further discussion and debate, which is good because we're raising consciousness," said Leno, noting his surprise at Hall's opposition. "However, a little foreknowledge of such questions is appreciated."

Robert Haaland, a transgender activist and vice president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, responded swiftly to Hall's comments by writing a letter to the ill-advised supervisor.

"As a voter in San Francisco, I resisted believing all the misinformation that various news sources has spread about you. Specifically, they frequently portrayed you as a bigot," Haaland's letter said, referring to Hall's reputation on the campaign trail last year.

"Yesterday, you told reporters that you see gender reassignment surgery as a choice. I suspect many, who are not informed or educated on the issue, may share

your view. However, as a leader, you have a responsibility to learn and educate your constituents, not pander to bigotry in your district. The 'will of the people' has justified some of the worst crimes in history."

Indeed, Hall's statements, even if backed by numerous members of his district, are not only misguided, but unpopular to boot. As an editorial in the *San Francisco Chronicle* stated earlier this week, "The city's workforce already includes a police officer, human rights investigator and public health worker who changed sex because of deeply-felt need, not whimsy."

This Monday's meeting is expected to draw a crowd, and if all goes as Leno anticipates, produce the nine votes needed for the health benefits to pass. The Board of Supervisors meets at 2 p.m. in the legislative chamber on the second floor of City Hall. ▼

## Destination

◀ page 4

Mamorsky, international marine artist Wyland, Absolute Vodka artist Kenny Scharf, and Wavy Gravy.

Additional corporate sponsors are: True Spectra, Ofoto.com, Circle.com, ISPOT Interactive, Lonely Planet, Sparks.com, The Art Store, Universal Care (Strike Out Breast Cancer), *SF Weekly*, *Genre* magazine, and *Curve* magazine. ▼

Applications for dream trips and additional information about Destination Foundation are available at <http://www.destinationfoundation.org>, or by calling (415) 970-3333. Metreon is located at the corner of 4th and Mission streets in San Francisco and is easily accessible by public transportation. For information about Metreon, call (415) 369-6000 or visit <http://www.mtreon.com>.

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# Take me to the river

by Jim Provenzano

While the controversy over the potential ban of ads depicting PWAs as Crixivan-gulping rock climbers and AIDS cocktail-swilling hunks on kayaks rages on, in some cases, people with AIDS are actually *doing* such things, but not as shills for pharmaceutical companies.

If you're a person with AIDS, and you want to give those sporty models a run for their money, take an outdoor prescription with Healing Waters, the nonprofit that's been sponsoring free and low-cost wilderness adventures for immune-suppressed folks and their families and friends.

But this is no poz-only group. All are welcome to the mostly lesbian and gay-guided treks, but the purpose of Healing Waters' HIV groups is to provide an adventure with a supportive environment, where people with AIDS concerns don't have to make apologies, excuses, or worry about their kayak partners' potential fears and misconceptions.

Founder and Executive Director Cale Siler had a special mission

to form the group. When he had an unsafe sexual experience, it so traumatized him that he became determined to help others get over the fear of having AIDS take over — and limit — their lives.

After several tests, he remained HIV-negative, but "that experience was so powerful for me, I took stock of what I could do, and thought, well, I can take people out and give them a weekend where they feel empowered and loved."

Started in 1996, Siler, who trained to be a sea kayaking guide, has led trips around the world.

Siler's mother is an outdoorsy mainstay on many trips (his family is from Tahoe), providing the support along with a few employees and several volunteers. The group started to grow. "Funders started coming out of the woodwork without our even soliciting," said Siler.

Starting with a meager two trips a year, they have expanded to leading adventures each weekend.

## Snow flaky

Nature trips come in a variety of difficulty levels and settings. "Some people have never slept outside. And those are my fa-

vorites, bringing this experience to them," said Siler. Healing Waters has sponsored trips for up to 2,000 participants.

"For folks who want a really low-impact trip, the cross-country skiing trips are really popular," he said. "You can hang out at the cabin, build snowmen."

Trips usually are managed to avoid excess traffic or unpleasant situations, like one trip inland through snow-bound traffic. One man, Randall, arrived with the group at an exhaustingly late 5 a.m. While most collapsed to bed, Randall was found snapping pictures of snow drifts in the dark, simply happy to enjoy the pristine beauty.

Those looking for an active weekend will be happy. "The next step up includes snowshoe trips. After that would be the whitewater trips," Siler said. More mellow, yet environmentally interactive, are the kayaking trips. You don't even have to row if you prefer to ride in a two-person kayak. Just sit back and enjoy the nearby wildlife as you paddle along the Point Reyes shoreline.

## Campy

In the past year, Healing Waters has doubled its number of trips, with adventures taking place each weekend. They offer both "benefit" trips, where guests pay to cover their costs and support the group, and "participant" trips, where PWAs and people with cancer can experience the sort of adventure they might never dare alone.

Whitewater rafting trips are very popular with Bay Area residents. Few thrills beat the rolling excitement of paddling down a refreshing stream. The South Fork of the American River is a Class 3 river, perfect for first-timers and seasoned paddlers. Dates in 2001 include June 1-3, July 27-29, and August 24-26. The \$265 cost includes lodging, equipment, and hearty camping meals.

Want to kayak within yards of orcas, dolphins and eagles? Join the June San Juan Islands trek to Washington. To pay, the trip is \$765, or for PWAs or people with cancer, free.

For an even more exotic adventure, you can partake of Healing Waters treks to Nepal, where Katmandu offers mountain-high views from the top of the world. Another far-off journey goes to Costa Rica, where you can do your "Just Jack" impersonations for the howler monkeys.

## Fun funds

How can they afford it? Private and corporate funding. Healing Waters' "Touch More Lives" campaign raised over \$100,000 resulting in the purchase of a van, rafts, wet suits, skis, life vests, and other equipment. They also receive a number of in-kind donations



Lifeboat: Cale, Matt, Andrew, Brian, John, Marc, and Mona make a splash.

from ad companies and outdoors equipment dealers.

SMMILE, Saatchi & Saatchi, the Wells Fargo Foundation, and the Moonwalk Fund are some of the big donors. The Moonwalk Fund was created by two gay men who died of AIDS and wanted to focus their legacy on activity-oriented PWA activities.

Trips for all people include a backpacking guide school for \$285 that teaches how to become a skilled backpacker and support person for groups trips.

As to the perception that only those on certain over-advised medications can climb every mountain, Siler prefers to limit his promotion to his trips, "I would definitely put more faith in our program than in Crixivan. I mean, it's advertising. Putting on Nikes isn't going to make you Michael Jordan."

No matter what your level of experience — or medication — volunteers are invited to help out on trips, organize fundraising and administrative activities and, if you qualify, go on trips as well.

For more info, call (415) 296-6178, write Healing Waters/Tides Center, 735 Battery Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94111, or visit their Web site at <http://www.hwaters.org>.

## Toro!

Famed *Front Runner* author Patricia Nell Warren will read from and sign copies of her new novel, *The Wild Man* about a gay bullfighter, this Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. (415) 431-0891. For more info, visit <http://www.adlbooks.com> or <http://www.wildcatpress.com>.

## Uniformation

Team San Francisco is hosting a mandatory sport rep meeting at the Gym at 150 Oak Street on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 p.m. This meeting has an aggressive agenda for organizing member organizations for the Gay Games in Sydney in November, 2002. Each athletic organization that has members in Team San Francisco is to send two representatives — one female, one male — to coordinate the different

sports' uniforms with the Team San Francisco uniform. Team SF uniform is navy blue and gold. Also up for discussion are local events leading up to the Games. "We want to encourage membership and event participation by those members," said Anne Ludwig of Team SF. "Team SF also wants an opportunity to get suggestions and comments from our members so that we can be more useful to them as Gay Games liaisons. We want all clubs represented."

"This is their opportunity to learn the latest news on the Games and to provide their members with answers on updates." For more info call or e-mail Ludwig at (415) 668-3771 or [anne@fullbloom.com](mailto:anne@fullbloom.com), or visit <http://www.teamssf.org>.

## May flowers

Sunday, May 13 the Bay Area Distance Runners (BADR) is sponsoring the only half marathon oriented to gays, lesbians, and friends that we know of in the country, here in San Francisco. Age group divisions in both running and race walking. Flat fast course around Pac Bell Park, the piers, the Embarcadero and Fisherman's Wharf, and the Hyde Street Pier. All levels welcome. For info, visit the BADR Web site at <http://www.sfbadr.com> or call Dave at (415) 626-1380.

From Friday, May 25 through Sunday, May 27, there will be a wrestling and martial arts clinic and tournament sponsored by the Golden Gate Wrestling Club and the Bay Area chapter of the International Association of Gay & Lesbian Martial Arts (IAGLMA). The event will include introductions, light practice, workshops, technique clinics, tournaments, and awards dinner. This event will be instructional, informative, and a great intro to the sports. Several out of town athletes will be participating as well. Hosted housing available. For information, contact Johnny Almony (GG Wrestling Club) at (415) 487-8902 or via e-mail at [captain@ggwc.org](mailto:captain@ggwc.org) or Andy McGuire (IAGLMA) at (415) 566-6121 or via e-mail at [tkdusa@aol.com](mailto:tkdusa@aol.com). ▼

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## CLASSIFIEDS

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247744

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Martin De Porres Dispensary 350 Divisadero St. SF., CA 94117. This business is conducted by a non profit corp, signed Wayne Justmann Director/Presiding Bishop. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/01.  
**APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247183

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pure Music 35 Bonita St. SF., CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul J. Liszewski Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/05/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/05/01.  
**APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247766

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eureka St. Pictures 285 Eureka St. SF., CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Joseph Arnold. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/29/01.  
**APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247707

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fresh Catch @ Pac Bell Park 24 Willie May Plaza, SF., CA 94133. This business is conducted by a corporation California FineFoods Inc. signed David Collins, co-owner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/28/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/28/01.  
**APR. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319458

In the Matter of the Application of Carlos Alberto De La Pava for change of Name. The application of Carlos Alberto De La Pava for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Carlos Alberto De La Pava has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Carolina Andrea De La Pava. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 313338

In the Matter of the Application of Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali for change of Name. The application for Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jason Michael White Rejali (minor) by his father Shahab Mostafari Rejali has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jason Michael Rejali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
**APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247848

The following person(s) are doing business as: DL Group LTD. 2701 Judah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dmitry Litichevsky. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/02/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/02/01.  
**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247840

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1st JE-IL Gift, 888 Brannan Street Suite #275, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oh, Hyang Suk. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/02/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/02/01.  
**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247769

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thanh+Thanh, 2205 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Pat Duong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/29/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/29/01.  
**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247821

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jim Thomas Consulting, 1690 Funston Avenue #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jim Thomas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/30/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/30/01.  
**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247944

The following person(s) are doing business as: Huck Image, 190 7th Street #11, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed G. Thomas Sawyer. The registrant(s) commenced

to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/03/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/01.  
**APR. 12, 19, 26, MAY 3, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 248212

The following person(s) are doing business as: Silk Road Art & Fashion, 716 Monterey Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Victor Tung and Bei Bei Shen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 248127

The following person(s) are doing business as: CFL Jewelry, 888 Brannan Street #3290, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chi Fu Lo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 248171

The following person(s) are doing business as: Compwash U.S.A. 2408 Bayshore Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hawk N. Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/13/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San

Francisco, Ca. on 04/13/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 248153

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Base Asian Art, 120 Mercury Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Guo Ji Lin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/12/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/12/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247876

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fatt Sak Records, 121 Marlin Ct. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Richard L. Norris Jr. and Lyvette F. Norris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/03/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/03/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247915

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prosevy, Proshow, 235 Montgomery Street Suite 962, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Lee A. Nold, president. The registrant(s) commenced

to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/22/87. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 248008

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pacific Heights Skin Care, 2000 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Shari Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/06/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/06/01.  
**APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320099

In the Matter of the Application of Dana Altman Loberstein for change of Name. The application of Dana Altman Loberstein for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dana Altman Loberstein has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Linus Daniel Altman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th



## Gay Culture: Tours of Your Gay Life

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Gay Life, promoting Gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

day of June, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319727

In the Matter of the Application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi. For change of Name. The application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ma Khin Shwe Gyi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to San Shwe Khine. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 248293

The following person(s) are doing business as: MediGrow. 1306 D Gateview Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94130. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kent C. Taylor. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/19/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01. APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 248244

The following person(s) are doing business as: Applied Learning Solutions, Inc. 1072 14th Street, San Francisco 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Diane Valenti, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01. APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 248241

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lam Hai Ky Restaurant. 2337- Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Ty Quoc Luu and Ann Ngoc Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01. APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 248337

The following person(s) are doing business as: V.I.P. Social Club. 5033- Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul E. Bernard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/23/01. APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 248296

The following person(s) are doing business as: Visage Medical Day Spa, Visage 490 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Echavez, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/01/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01. APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

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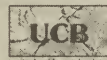


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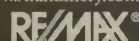


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**WHAT:** Cast Replacements for Steve Silver's BEACH BLANKET BABYLON  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 28th, 2001 12:00 noon  
**WHERE:** Club Fugazi, San Francisco 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (Green St.) Between Columbus & Powell

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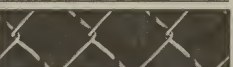
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**Up front with Patricia Nell Warren**  
Author of gay novels 'The Front Runner'  
and 'The Wild Man' speaks candidly.

page 30

**Claudia Shear shines**  
in 'Dirty Blonde' at  
Theatre on the Square.

page 40



**Why 'Magritomania'?**  
Why not?! The SF Ballet  
dance is smart and fun.

page 32



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 17 • 26 April 2001

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer  
creates a stir at the Victoria  
Theatre on April 27 and 28.

## She laughs in heels

by Richard Dodds

### Suzanne Westenhoefer's *Tour de Femme*

**W**hat do lesbians look like? As far as Hollywood is concerned, they don't look like Suzanne Westenhoefer. It doesn't matter that Westenhoefer has been one of the most successful openly gay comics in the country for nearly a decade. She doesn't look the part.

"I look like the girl you went to the prom with 10 years ago," said Westenhoefer, who is taking a break from Hollywood casting calls to do a pair of comedy shows at the Victoria Theatre on April 27 and 28.

But because everyone knows Lili (a lesbian), my agent keeps sending me out for those roles. You walk into the room and there will be 10 or 20 women waiting to audition for the same part, and they all either look like Madonna Hattaway or they look like Uma Thurman. I don't look like either of those things.

If Westenhoefer's image as a lipstick lesbian can hold its own in Hollywood, it's helped in her goal of being a

crossover gay act. "I had this idea if I was going to be a standup, I didn't want to be a standup for just gay people," she said. "I wanted to do it for everyone."

And so, with little change to her gaycentric material, Westenhoefer plays both the big comedy clubs as well as events targeted to queer audiences. The show she is doing at the Victoria Theatre, which is sponsored by Theatre Rhino, is titled *Tour de Femme*.

"One reason we called it *Tour de Femme* is because I've been going to a lot of faraway places and weird things have happened," Westenhoefer said. "And the other reason we thought of *Tour de Femme* is because of this obsession I've having with the whole 'tatch' femme top-bottom thing. Gay men are so obsessed with who's top or who's bottom that it's almost a law that you have to be one or the other, but lesbians want even when there is a push and femme thing."

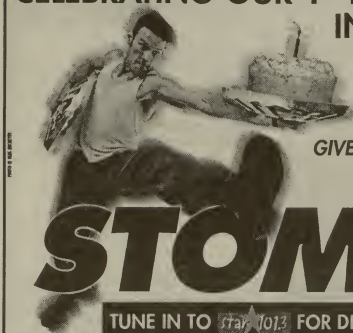
Westenhoefer is negotiating with HBO for *Tour de Femme* to be her second special for the premium cable

page 33 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



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-NY Times

# Still out front

Patricia Nell Warren's long-distance career

by Jameson Currier

Patricia Nell Warren says her new novel, *The Wild Man*, about a gay bullfighter in fascist Spain, took more than 30 years to write.

"These were experiences and thinkings that happened to me in the 1960s and stayed with me a long time," she says. "Thirty years later, I still feel the story is important to tell."

Set during the "confusing, volatile times" of Spain in 1969, *The Wild Man* tells the love affair between Antonio, a disillusioned bullfighter about to retire, and Juan, a young, idealist peasant in search of a better life. Warren, who has authored eight novels in her 48-year writing career, is best known for the best-selling *The Front Runner*, the sympathetic love story between a closeted ex-Marine track coach and a gay college distance runner who has set his sights on the Olympics. Since it was first published in 1974, more than 10 million copies of the book have been sold worldwide, and it has been translated into 10 languages.

"I am amazed at how young people today reading *The Front Runner* don't find it dated," Warren says. "There is a lot in it in terms of issues that they face that haven't really changed that much."

Warren also published in the 1990s two popular sequels to *The Front Runner*: *Harlan's Race*, published in 1994, and *Billy's Boy*, published in 1997. She notes that a third and final sequel is also in the works, written from the viewpoint of one of the women involved in the story.

"Then it will be time to let the whole *Front Runner* thing rest," she says.

### Youth advocate

Warren, now 64, is a frequent contributor to the gay press, writing and speaking out on a number of causes, including women's rights and, most recently, Internet censorship. A distance runner herself, she joined with other women



Author Patricia Nell Warren

in the early 1970s and forced the Amateur Athletic Union to change its discriminatory rules. But it has also been the popularity of *The Front Runner* which has led her to become a guest speaker at high schools and universities around the country. Warren has also served as an advocate for many gay youth causes, including a stint on the Los Angeles school district's Human Relations Education Commission. In 1995, she founded the Patricia Nell Warren Endowment Fund, which helps gay youths pursue careers in the arts. The idea for the endowment began when Warren was a volunteer teacher for gay students in a Los Angeles drop-out program.

"A number of my students were incredibly gifted artistically, and it was almost as if their creative gifts had been their lifejackets," she says. "Most of them were runaways or had been in severe problems at home and had dropped out. They were interested in filmmaking or writing or art or poetry. But for them to think about a career in the arts was a really big step. They didn't have any idea how to go about it. So I started this endowment fund to identify students who I felt were exceptionally talented in the arts and who were also very economically-challenged. One thing I learned is that it often doesn't take a lot of money to help out."

Warren uses the Fund to help students with specific needs, whether aiding with tuition or buying supplies.

"One kid never had any art supplies to work with in his life, so the Endowment Fund and me and him went to the art store and bought him \$200 worth of art supplies," she says. "That young man rewarded me about a year-and-a-half later by getting his first major commission as a fashion illustrator."

Warren, who grew up on a ranch in Deer Lodge, Montana in the 1950s, relocated to Los Angeles in the 1980s after a 22-year stint as an editor for *Reader's Digest*. Her own coming-out process occurred while she was at work writing *The Front Runner*.

"I knew for a long time that I was not a straight person," she says. "I had my very first relationship with a woman when I was very young—when I was 13. *The Front Runner* was a part of my life when I was moving out of a marriage towards coming out."

### Gays at the 'Digest'

Warren published the book and came out publicly as a lesbian while still working at *Reader's Digest*.

"It was a very conservative company, and I thought I would lose my job," she says. "But there

were a lot of gay people there already, both men and women. The company was quite proud of the fact that I had a book on *The New York Times* bestseller list."

While her literary career includes four books of poetry and a novel about Native-American women, it is her novels with gay male characters that have garnered her the most attention and overshadowed many other themes in her works. In the 1970s, Warren authored two other gay-themed novels, *The Fancy Dancer* (1976), about a young Catholic priest's attraction for a biracial mechanic with a criminal record, and *The Beauty Queen* (1978), about the closeted father of a homophobic, born-again Anita Bryant-like politician. While Warren foreshadowed many contemporary issues such as gay parenting, media outing, and gay civil rights, the notion of a lesbian writing a popular series of gay men's novels also captured some criticism.

"I don't say to myself that I'm going to sit down and write a story about men," Warren says. "I had no idea that that would be an issue. Because in the mainstream, generally the genders are free to write about one another. Women can write about men and men can write about women, and it's no big deal. It's really not until I published *The Front Runner* and came out that I discovered that there was a huge political issue out there that I had stumbled into. I have been dealing with this question every since."

Warren notes that "page for page, over the years, I have written as much about women as I have about men," and believes it's important to focus on developing strong characters first.

"It's something challenging for the genders to write about one another," she says. "It creates riches of understanding between the genders that I think we need in the gay world."

In 1993, after an unhappy experience with her publishers, Random House and Ballantine, on her novel about Native-American women, *One is the Sun*, Warren acquired the rights to her earlier books and started a company, Wildcat Press, with a business partner, Tyler St. Mark, to publish her own writings, including her most recent effort, *The Wild Man*. "There's a trend in the business today for writers to go independent," Warren says. "Often there are issues of creative control, no different than in the record industry or the film industry."

After a long and protracted legal battle, Warren has also acquired the film rights back to *The Front Runner*.

"It took me four years of litigation, and we now have an independent company developing it," she says.

Warren, who is co-writing the screenplay with Barry Sandler (who wrote the screenplay for *Making Love*), says the battle to turn the popular novel into a film is still not over.

"There are gay people in the film industry who aren't interested in seeing a movie version of *The Front Runner*," she says. "They are more interested in doing things like *Queer as Folk*. What's amazing is that we know from letters and e-mails that there are a lot of people out there who would buy tickets to the movie. We are going to stick to our guns and hope to pull this off." ▼

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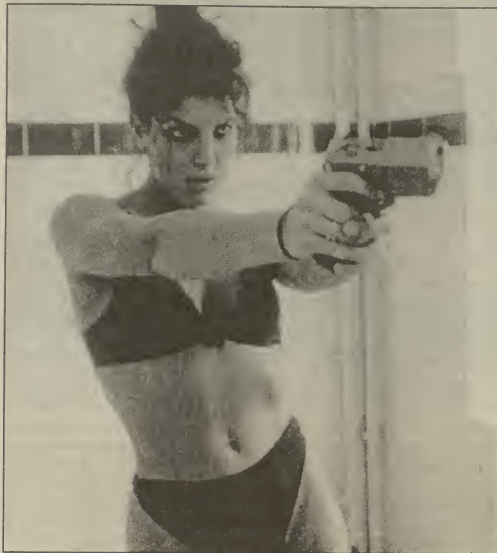
# Brutal youth

'Baise-Moi' opens at Roxie Theater

by Gary Morris

Female revenge films aren't exactly an unknown quantity, especially in the exploitation circuit. Pam Grier was one of the genre's superstars in the early 1970s; in films like *Coffy* and *Foxy Brown*, she coolly dispatched any number of corrupt pimps, politicians, and pushers. Hong Kong had its share of tough women then, too, most notably Angela Mao Ying, who kicked, punched, and slammed her way through an army of men in movies like *Deadly China Doll* and *Deep Thrust*. Trashier examples appeared throughout the '70s as gender politics got more heated. The 1978 *I Spit on Your Grave* is considered the apex (or nadir, depending on your view) of the genre. In that film, the victim of a gang rape methodically murders her attackers ("This woman has just cut, chopped, broken and burned five men beyond recognition... but no jury in America would ever convict her!") The erratic Abel Ferrara also tossed his two cents' worth in with *Ms. 45* (1981), where the titular heroine includes male dogs in her victims.

The fantasy of women who



Banned in Canada: *Baise-Moi* revels in sex, drugs and violence.

turn on that wacky institution known as the patriarchy is an enduring one, but inevitably later examples have mostly been co-

opted, à la *Thelma and Louise*, which drained much of the power of the image of women out of control with its glamorous stars, plush production, and cop-out ending. Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi return some trashy integrity to the genre with *Baise-Moi*, a hardcore French art

page 40 ►

# Get your knives sharpened

'Chopper' opens at Lumiere

by Brandon Judell

Imagine being sealed in a closet with three tarantulas, two asps and Charlton Heston. That's what watching this biopic of Australia's most notorious criminal, *Chopper*, is like.

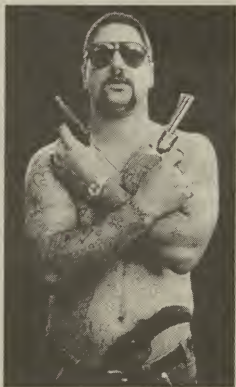
Brutally violent, comically bloody, and nonstop discomfiting — if you're easily nauseated, you've been forewarned.

Mark "Chopper" Read, as superbly realized by Eric Bana, is a stocky, homophobic, heavily tattooed oaf unable to control his own hell-bent behavior. Often after every sadistic, possibly lethal act of his, a sense of great regret comes over this life criminal, sort of like Charlie Brown as a member of the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* clan.

Why, after stabbing a fellow inmate in the neck for no reason, Chopper offers a cigarette to the chap who's lying in his still spurting plasma. Then after shooting a drug dealer pointblank in the stomach, he'll drive him to the hospital. As for his possibly cheating girlfriend, he bangs her mother in the face with his head and then says to his galpal, "Look what you made me do."

But the scene that everyone will be talking about is the one in which he does Van Gogh one better. When the prison authorities won't relocate him to the cell he wants, Chopper has both of his own ears sliced off to force them into action.

Happily, Chopper's bravado has a merry side, too. When he sees a saucy gal in a bar, to win her



Eric Bana as Mark "Chopper" Read

over, he unzips and allows his massive, semi-erect appendage to hang free for all to see while he keeps chatting away to some policemen. (The critics I polled after the screening, who were of both lesbian and gay persuasions, were clearly divided on whether the huge cock we saw was real or not.)

Rubber or flesh aside, writer/director Andrew Dominik, who arrives in theaters from the music video world, has created a visually arresting, fatally unforgettable tale of a man who makes you ashamed to be human. But it still might make you want to visit Australia, especially since Chopper is now out of prison and available for brunch. ▼

*Chopper* plays the Lumiere April 27-May 3.

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PROGRAM (MAY 5): CUNNINGHAM/WAY STATION, (BAY AREA PREMIERE); *WINDOWS* (1995); *RAINFORST*, MUSIC BY DAVID TUDOR, DESIGN BY ANDY WARHOL (1968)

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# High on the Magritte-o-meter

## 'Magrittomania' at the San Francisco Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

Despite rumors to the contrary, I did not leave Program VII of the San Francisco Ballet early last Tuesday in order to get home in time to see Barry Bonds hit homer 500 out of Pac Bell Park into McCovey Cove. I left early, before the closing *Symphony in C*, to be exact, because I was suffering from my annual allergy attack and, as Confucius says, it is better to cough in the car than in Row G.

The part of the program I did see was interesting if not totally inspiring. Mark Morris' *Pacific*, to the last two movements of Lou Harrison's *Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano*, looked sharper and more consequential when it was new at the 1995 SFB UNited We Dance Festival. Jason Davis is still the dishy lead man in blue, and Tina LeBlanc and Christopher Stowell are the couple in red. Morris' pan-Asian choreography (the arm upraised like a scimitar; the body, both ceremonial and subservient, bent at the waist; the scissoring legs that look so fabulous in Martin Pakledinaz's billowing unisex trousers) didn't seem quite as specific this time.

I missed the sense I had got previously of a culture fresh and lovely that was easily crushed. I say "got" with trepidation. Analyzing Mark Morris dances is a hazardous occupation. (Remember the time a *Chronicle* critic thought *Maelstrom* was a gloss on *Giselle*? Not.) Yet I don't like to sell Morris short, either, and without the subtle gravitas, *Pacific* is pretty but lightweight. It would help if the musicians — Roy Malan, David Kadarach and Roy Bogas — had been better rehearsed and if the lights shining on their scores hadn't blinded the first ten rows of the left side of orchestra seats.

Because of last year's allergy attack, I missed the world premiere



Yuan Yuan Tan dances front and center in San Francisco Ballet's classy production of *Magrittomania*

of Yuri Possokhov's rapturously received *Magrittomania*; this time I was determined to see it. I was surprised that no one had mentioned how very Russian the piece is — chock full of intellectual conceits, tortured musical choices, and bravura choreography. It reminded me — though in a more tasteful and musical way — of Boris Eifman's recent *Russian Hamlet*, especially since both choreographers insisted on raping Beethoven.

Eifman's Beethoven was the real thing, though badly amplified and excerpted. Possokhov employs a film score by Yuri Krasavin which basically deconstructs various Beethoven works from "Fur Elise" to the "Eroica" Symphony. He adds clanks, crashes and other percussive noises; I suggested to my companion that the name of the unknown film might have been *Beethoven of the Boiler Room*. Whatever. It was not a musical choice I would have made, but then I couldn't choreograph something as weirdly compelling as the *pas de deux* for Roman Rykine (in a tight black suit) and Yuan Yuan Ten, both of their faces

covered in filmy scarves, as in Magritte's painting, "The Lovers."

A choreographer seeing Tan in the studio must start to salivate. Those endless extensions, those liquid arms, that swan-like neck, the passive-aggressive manner. When Rykine heaves her around in mid-air, her legs slice out like scythes seeking a cornfield. Pos-

sokhov, no fool when it comes to female pulchritude, put Tan in a long red dress, slit up to here. Her solo to "Fur Elise" (with her left arm bent behind her back) is a miracle of how to use a dancer's strengths. Another is the trio for Joan Boada, Guennadi Nedvigine and newcomer Pablo Piantino, pure, thrilling Bolshoi bravura

with a French apache touch.

Though one cannot say exactly what *Magrittomania* "means," there is plenty to entertain, illuminate and provoke. Even Possokhov's choice of designer was inspired. Without actually copying the paintings, Thyra Hartshorn incorporated familiar surrealist symbols — the dove, the bowler hats, the cutout man, the green apples — in a manner that kept the audience cooing in recognition.

A smart artist connects with viewers by making them feel like they are in on the joke. Artistic obfuscation may fool a few critics, but it never fools an audience. Yet there is no need to dumb down and Possokhov hasn't. He respects our knowledge of art and popular culture. Even the Beethoven borborygmus is part of that recognition. (Everybody gasped at "Fur Elise.") Comfortable that it is not being fooled or condescended to, the audience is able to enjoy such really difficult choreography as part of a good time at the ballet, rather than as something that might be "good for you," like medicine. ▼

## Planetary dancing

### Bay Area Dance Week concludes Sunday

by Michael Simpson

San Francisco is reported to be the second biggest dance center in the United States, but you'd hardly know it from mainstream media and funding organizations, which tend to focus on the SF Ballet and the touring productions booked at Zellerbach Hall and Yerba Buena Center.

In a rare opportunity to move

deeper into the world of dance and dancers, National Dance Week, which began in the Bay Area last Friday, means dozens of chances to attend open rehearsals, take a free class, or join in an actual performance. It is a chance for the curious as well as the cognoscenti to partake in the rest of the iceberg — the wealth of dance happening in smaller venues, from neighborhood studios to church basement theaters, from Marin to San Mateo, with dancers of all ages and backgrounds.

One enters the circle with a pronouncement of who you run for; there is the steady pulse of a drum, and the "movement mandala" continues, always changing, for hours.

"Planetary Dance 2001" takes place Sunday in Santos Meadows, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ritual will be followed by a communal feast, so participants are encouraged to bring something to share.

#### Dances day by day

Other events during the last weekend of Dance Week include, on Thursday, April 26, a samba and percussion class with Escola de Samba Estrada Real at the Mission YMCA, 4080 Mission at Bosworth, at 7:30 p.m. Chitresh Das Dance Company will teach you North Indian Kathak footwork, hand gestures, songs and movements at their workshop at the Cultural Integration Fellowship, 2650 Fulton at 3rd Avenue, 6:30 p.m. You can watch an open rehearsal of Huckabay McAllister Dance Company at the Shan Yee Poon Ballet School at 403 Arguello at Clement at 8 p.m. Free Gyro-kinesis Yoga class will be offered Thursday morning at 11:30 a.m. at San Francisco Dance Center, 50 Oak Street.

Free events on Friday include a Tahitian Dance Rehearsal with KaUaTuahine Polynesian Dance Company, 729 Heinz Avenue #4 in Berkeley, 7:00 p.m. FatChanceBellyDance offers Tribal Bellydance Basics at 6:30 p.m., 670 South Van Ness. Intimate Embrace is a workshop that links body-mind ideas with the Tango, at Dance Ground Keriak Studio, 1805 Divisadero, 7:30 p.m. Rhythm and Motion Studio offers free Dance Workout at 10 a.m., "Stretch and Strength" at 12 noon, "Kids Hip Hop" at 4 p.m. and "Beginning Salsa" at 7

page 35 ►

**Claudia Shear**  
Tom Riis Farrell in Bob Stillman

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written by Claudia Shear  
directed by James Lapine

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*Dirty Blonde* has a big Broadway feel and a real sense of something special happening on stage that gives you an incredible emotional wallop. - Pat Craig, Contra Costa Times

It's a wonderful, smart and funny show that evokes Mae West and tells the contemporary story of two fans. It's a fabulous witty, romantic comedy. I highly recommend this absolutely marvelous show. 4 HATS. My highest rating. - Jan Wahl, KCBS Radio, KRON TV

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## COMEDY

## Suzanne

Arts cover

station, but if a performance should eventually be taped, it won't look like what audiences will see at the Victoria Theatre. That's because no two Westenhoefer shows are ever the same.

"My act is extremely extemporaneous and a tremendous amount of stuff is off the cuff," she said. "If I get tired of talking about a topic, I toss it. It's a very fluctuating act."

And it's real. "A lot of standups invent a persona," she said. "I'm the same person offstage as I am on. Maybe not as loud, but my girlfriend might disagree."

Growing up in a blue-collar region of Pennsylvania, Westenhoefer said she was "a smartass, which is different from being the class clown. A class clown will do anything for a laugh, but if you said something I had a retort."

She was also arrogant, a trait she said she inherited from her father even though he left the family when she was just two. "In high school I was not unhappy," Westenhoefer said, "but I didn't feel I had anything in common with the other kids. I felt I was far above them and much more mature. I had to be the leader or I wouldn't play."

Westenhoefer was aware of her attraction to girls, but figured she couldn't be a lesbian because she didn't fit the profile. "I played with Barbie big time," she said. "I was a huge makeup freak and I couldn't wait to get my first nylons. When I got to college I realized liking girls was something I could definitely pursue, that it's okay to wear makeup and be a lesbian. I took a lot of grief from the lesbians at college for doing so, but I didn't



Suzanne Westenhoefer

"It's okay to wear makeup and be a lesbian."

pay any attention."

After college, Westenhoefer headed to Manhattan to be an actress. "That didn't go too well," she said. "I didn't do squat, but I became the best goddamn bartender in New Jersey."

Pouring drinks for quasi-yuppies became a 10-year detour from performing, but it provided a valuable service. "I had a strong voice from the word go, and I think it was from all those years bartending," she said. "Most comics who start out spend a year just trying to get 15 minutes. I had an hour. I had so many things I thought I had to say."

After friends pushed her to perform at an open-mike night, her life quickly changed. "There was a lot of 'Ohmigod, ohmigod.' You almost couldn't take a breath. It's amazing to me that nine years ago I was bartending — or the poverty level I had just seven or eight years ago. You just sort of go 'Wow.'"

Suzanne Westenhoefer will perform at the Victoria Theatre at 8 p.m. April 27 and 28. Tickets are \$25 (\$50 tickets include a post-show party with Westenhoefer). Call 861-5079.

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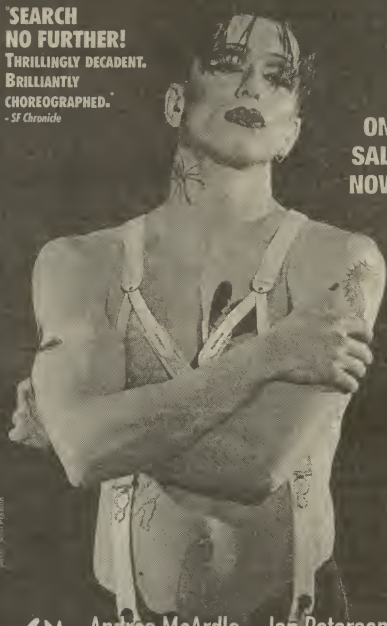
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## Earth to Bush: Ouch!

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It's been a week of hellish memorials: Columbine; Oklahoma City; the Holocaust. And if the Bush Administration continues as it has, by the third week of April next year we can add Earth Day to the list.

Forget Bush's new post-groveling tough talk on China, which is all about getting our spy plane back; apparently the five Chinese American academics that have been "detained" since February don't count. The two detained last week weren't even named on the news. Why bother learning to pronounce names that won't get air play?

But we digress. The tough talk from Bush this week has been about the environment. According to the Bush Administration we simply don't need all these pollution restrictions Bill Clinton augured during his presidency—nor apparently do we need any of those initiated by any of the 13 presidents preceding him, either. The Endangered Species Act costs money, and when those animals die we can just clone new ones, right? As Jay Leno quipped on the *Tonight Show*, commenting on Bush's arrival in Canada for the Summit of the Americas, "President Bush said he's very impressed with Canada. He said there's so much beautiful untouched land to environmentally destroy up here."

A huge demonstration outside the Environmental Protection Agency before Earth Day celebrations resulted in EPA administrator (and former New Jersey governor, because one wants the EPA chief to come from the toxic waste capital of the nation) Christie Whitman holding a press conference to announce the Bush Administration would not rescind the Clinton initiative setting more restrictive standards on lead emissions.

During the press conference Whitman kept an almost preternatural smile affixed to her face and made a few jokes about how busy the Clinton had been in the final months setting environmen-

tal standards. Her clear implication was that such environmental regs were simply another embarrassing moment in Clinton history, like Monica Lewinsky. Real men, like Bush, don't need hot sex or clean air and water.

Bush's hard line on the environment has gotten so extreme even some conservative pundits agree that Bush has a "Green problem." But Dick "Halliburton" Cheney dismissed the issue with a literal wave of his hand on the Sunday morning shows.



## Lavender Tube

Speaking of Cheney, every Marxist fiber of our being constricted when CNN reported how much the VP made last year: \$36 million and a few hundred thousand change. From big oil. But any connection between that \$36 mil and the destruction of the environment is purely coincidental. We suggest swamp land in Florida, but we believe all the wetlands have been destroyed down there.

## Contest rules

It's no coincidence, however, that NBC just debuted the latest theft from British TV, *The Weakest Link*, thus ensuring a hooked audience before reruns end and sweeps programming begins.

We have real approach-avoidance reaction to this *Jeopardy* meets *Survivor* game show. Host Anne Robinson will seem familiar to viewers who went to Catholic school when corporal punishment was still the norm (she revealed on *Conan O'Brien* that she attended boarding school with nuns in England). In her three-quarter black leather duster and matching pants, with her cropped red hair and school-boy glasses, she's everyone's nightmare teacher—a dominatrix trained by the SS on the caning fields of Eton. All that's missing is the riding crop—or is that a birch switch, or perhaps branding iron?

Robinson is vicious to her contestants. After hearing her trademark exit line—"You are the weakest link. Goodbye!"—each contestant gets to bitch off camera about why they shouldn't have been dismissed.

We like this show because it's so much faster and less stupid than *Millionaire*. We dislike this show because we are tired of gratuitous meanness on TV when there is so much in real life. Conversely we find Robinson compelling and agree with her that she isn't saying anything on the show that we aren't saying at home. Which makes us feel that we should go to confession rather than watch another episode.

Teen violence:  
agony and irony

Speaking of confessions, 20/20 just aired a heartbreaking interview with 14-year-old Elizabeth Bush, convicted last month for shooting a classmate at her Williamsport, Pennsylvania Catholic junior high school. Bush agreed to speak with Connie Chung because she thought it might help other troubled teens on the verge of picking up a gun and "doing a Columbine," as it's come to be known.

Bush did not acknowledge being queer, but it was difficult to watch her and not see the huge "baby dyke" neon sign lighting up over her head. What Bush did acknowledge was severe depression over her difficulties fitting in at

school and her fury at the student she shot, who revealed secrets Bush had told her. Bush was remorseful for the shooting, which she makes no excuses for, but still angry with the former friend for her bullying.

The Bush interview revealed with some poignancy the turmoil kids who are relentlessly bullied experience. She was remarkably articulate and honest about her experience, but deeply sad and clearly no closer to accepting her own differentness.

Bush is incarcerated in a juvenile facility where she will remain until she turns 21. She was tried as a juvenile because the parents of the girl she shot lobbied for it. Meanwhile Andy Williams, the 15-year-old accused of killing two classmates and injuring 13 others at Santana High School in Santee, California two days before Bush shot her classmate, is being tried as an adult. In a disturbing irony, however, Michael Skakal, the 40-year-old nephew of Ethel Kennedy accused of murdering Martha Moxley 25 years ago, will be tried next month for her murder. As a juvenile.

## Male prison rape

Speaking of prison, kudos to ABC once again for cutting edge reporting. Last week the nightly newscast and *Nightline* focused on rape in men's prisons. The information was grisly—Amnesty International and other human rights groups suggest that there may be as much male-male rape within prisons as male-female rape on the outside. The rate of HIV transmission is 25 percent higher in prison than in the general population due to such rape.

Interviews with inmates suggest that unchecked violence in prison leads to violence among released prisoners. One man explained how being gang raped repeatedly within a juvenile facility led him to prey on gay men when he was released, assaulting and eventually killing. He is now in prison for life.

The current get-tough perspective on crime—which includes a prisoners-get-what-they-deserve attitude—may be understandable from a victim's perspective, but it's increasingly obvious that such tactics don't prevent crime and may in fact escalate it. The ABC prison rape series and the Bush interview illumine how abuse leads to violence. Interviews with victims-turned-perpetrators serve as public service announcements. We should heed the warnings.

## Set those VCRs

With sweeps sweeping in, VCR alerts abound. We remind viewers that lesbian storylines are heating up on *Buffy*, *The Vampire Slayer*, *Dark Angel*, *ER* and *All My Children*. Then "The Kiss"—between Jenifer Aniston and Wynona Rider on *Friends*—airs April 26. (Noted Jay Leno about the upcoming kiss: "I'm attracted to Jenifer Aniston and Wynona Rider—do you think I'm a lesbian?" We think, however, that the *Tonight Show*'s computer generated smooching between the two was far more explicit than the prime-time version.) Sally Field also returns on April 26 to *ER*—which may garner her an Emmy for her portrayal of Maury Teirney's mentally ill mother.

For political junkies (guilty!), on Friday, April 27 on 20/20, Barbara Walters gets the scoop on the Marc Rich pardon from Denise Rich. And for those queens who can't get enough of Old Hollywood, *Child Star: The Shirley Temple Story* airs on ABC on Sunday, May 13. ▼



## BOOKS

# A mixed bag

by Deborah Peifer

What, I ask you, with more and more publishers merging, combining or disappearing, and with those remaining offering fewer and fewer books of literary excellence, would we do without University presses? Now I'll confess to having a bit of a giggle when the University of California Press listed *The New Tibetan-English Dictionary of Modern Tibetan* (edited by Melvyn C. Goldstein, \$49.95) in the General Interest section of its Spring catalog, but, hey, maybe I'm the one out of step on this one. In the main, University presses offer an extraordinarily rich and varied range of titles. Whether the subject is gay studies, women's studies, or gender studies (and yes, each is an entirely different field), these presses do us an amazing service. They even dabble, occasionally, in fiction, and that is happy news indeed.

Dvora Baron (1887-1956) was the first modern Hebrew woman writer. Choosing to write in a language that was, at least, at the beginning of her career, limited to use in prayer and sacred texts and therefore forbidden to women, she brought a woman's perspective to her stories of life in the Eastern European Jewish shtetl, a

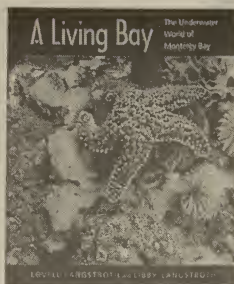
perspective that had been conspicuous by its absence in the writing of such luminaries as Sholom Aleichem. A collection of her work, *The First Day and Other Stories* (translated and edited by Naomi Seidman and Chana Kronfeld; University of California, \$16.95) offers an extraordinary look at the lives of ordinary and unforgettable characters.

In "Bill of Divorcement," for example, a woman who has been reduced to beggary after being divorced by her husband, watches as he marries a younger woman: "a strange cough could be heard, and then the sobs broke out — the kind of wailing that wells up from the depths and repels all attempts at consolation and subduing and makes everyone who hears it doubt that the world is truly as it should be."

"Liska" is the breathtaking story of a Jewish dog ("Liska doesn't mix milk and meat") whose decision to join the enemy that lives on the Christian street is heartbreaking. Dvora Baron writes with elegance and style, love and pain. These stories touch the heart, and fill the soul with wonder.

## And speaking of wonder...

Monterey Bay is one of the tremendous wonders of Northern



California, and its myriad sea life is the subject of *A Living Bay: The Underwater World of Monterey Bay* by Lovell Langstroth and Libby Langstroth (University of California, \$29.95). The illustrations in this book are awesome, and if, like me, you are among the scuba-challenged, the pictures will give you some small sense of the beauty and variety of life under the sea. The text is clear, concise, and interesting. The Langstroths provide enough information for you to understand how remarkable the creatures are who inhabit the Bay, from the intertidal zone to the Monterey canyon. *A Living Bay* is a wonderful book, and would make the perfect gift for divers and couch potatoes alike.

## Sorry

Most of us have the occasional fantasy, I suspect, of receiving a deserved apology from the guy who cut us off in the market or the lover who broke our heart. Dan Woog takes the dream to new levels in his new book, *Dear Dan...: Apologies from an Imperfect World* (Alyson, \$13.95), a collection of imaginary apologies that are amazingly satisfying and,

often, very funny. I particularly enjoyed the letter from the Duchy of Luxembourg, explaining how thrilled they were to have James Hornel as their ambassador. *Time Magazine* discovers, after careful checking that not only Abraham Lincoln and James Buchanan, but all our Presidents were gay. The article certainly convinced me. And wouldn't we all be just thrilled if the Pentagon really did adopt the "don't worry, don't care" policy. *Dear Dan* is a fun and sometimes poignant read, one that will keep you laughing all the way to the mailbox.

## Events

The inimitable, and hilarious (she once said that she loved being fisted because it made her feel like a Muppet) Margaret Cho signs her new book, *I'm the One that I Want* on May 7, at 1 p.m. at The Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street. Call 863-8688 for info.

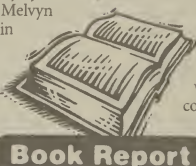
National Book Award winner Susan Sontag discusses *the writing life* at the Main Library on May 3

at 6:30 p.m.

Also at the Main is "Looking Trans," an exhibit of visual work representing the range of Trans experiences. The opening reception is on May 4 at the GLBT Historical Society, 4th floor, 973 Market Street from 6-9 p.m. The exhibit is at the Main and the Society May 4 through June 4.

My guess is that the world can be divided between those people for whom Patricia Nell Warren's novel of love among athletes, *The Front Runner*, was a life-changing event, and the rest of us. If you fall into the former category, this tip's for you. Warren appears at A Different Light Bookstore to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *The Front Runner* on April 28 at 2 p.m. Warren signs and discusses her new book, *The Wild Man*. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



## Book Report



Join AXIS Dance Company for an open rehearsal in Berkeley on Sunday.

## Dance

◀ page 32

p.m. Their studio is located at 1133 Mission St.

Saturday events include a chance to learn the Lotus Dance at Cirrus Dance and Arts, 1350-5 Grant Road, Mountain View, at 12 noon. Berkeley's Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts will offer Odissi Temple Dance lessons at 10 a.m., 1700 Dwight Way, Berkeley. In SF, Metronome Ballroom is offering an open house and chance to swing, salsa and ballroom dance at 2 p.m., at 1830 17th Street. The public is invited to a preview of Deborah Slater Dance Theater's "The Sleepwatchers" at 1 p.m., at Studio 210, 3435 Cesar Chavez.

The last day of the Dance Week features Halprin's Planetary

Dance 2001 in the North Bay, in addition to a showing of new works at ODC Theater at 3153 17th street in SF. For those who have always wanted to try "Contact Improvisation," DanceVisions in Palo Alto, at 400 Middlefield Road, 1-3, is offering a 7:30 p.m. workshop. World Dance Fusion Class and a beginning ballet class are being offered at the San Francisco Dance Center at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m., respectively. AXIS Dance Company, a company for dancers with and without disabilities, offers an open rehearsal at 5 p.m., at 2525 Eighth Street in Berkeley. ▼

For a calendar of all the National Dance Week events, go to [www.voiceofdance.com](http://www.voiceofdance.com). All events are free and open to the public.

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Fri 27

### Victoria Theatre

Theatre Rhinoceros presents lesbian comedy star Suzanne Westenhofer in "Tour De Femme," in which Westenhofer gives her inimitable take on everything from lesbian chic to female ejaculation. Recently nominated for a GLAAD media award for her performance, Westenhofer has appeared in comedy specials on HBO, Comedy Central, VH1, and A&E Network. \$25 (\$50 w/post-show party with Westenhofer). 8pm. 2961 16th St. Tix: 861-5079.

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"Reality Check" by the Mighty Real Theater, an interactive improvisational performance by the Jon Sims Center's queer youth theater project. Developed in improvisational workshops, the show weaves together an eclectic and riveting montage of moments mined from the performers' own experiences. Facilitated by Mighty Real Theater co-founders Lisi DeHaas and Gini Gold. The project encourages uncensored self-expression as a means of empowerment for the participants. Co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute and the Queer Cultural Center. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### Two of Hearts Studio

Opening reception: "Flower Power," a group show featuring sexy fashions for men and women by Robert T. Messick; photography by Ruth Ark, Jude Bartlett, and Rachel Lorenz; and paintings by Dean Holland, Martin Lang, Daniel Phill, and William Ulrich. Free. 6-9pm (fashion show begins 7:30pm). Exhibition runs thru June 15. Located in the heart of the Castro at 4147 19th St. Info: Jim Angelus, 864-5551.

### Ellard Hall

"Super Bingo Night" benefiting MHR AIDS Support Group. Each ticket includes 12 cards for each of 15 Bingo games (\$250 cash prize each game), free snacks, and two raffle tickets for two round-trip United Airlines tickets anywhere in the continental US, and other great prizes. \$25 (tax deductible). 7pm. 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St.). Advance purchase required from 4321 18th St. or 100 Diamond St. office. Info: 863-1581.

### A Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books

Internationally renowned gay poet Thom Gunn reads from his twelfth and richest collection, *Boss Cupid*, in which SF's local wonder treats the age-old themes of love and death. Free. 7:30pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. Info: 441-6670.

### Orinda Masonic Temple, Orinda

Daughters of the Goddess present "Dancing with the Goddess: A women's Beltane Celebration. Priestessing by Leilani. Music by Jennifer Bezean; drumming by Carolyn Brady. Featuring dance troupe As Parnas Com Alma. Artisans and craftswomen will sell their wares. \$25-\$35 sliding. Doors open 6:30pm; ceremony at 7:30pm. 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda. Info: (925) 256-8109.

## Sat 28

### Palace of Fine Arts

Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc. presents the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in "Encounters," a musical journey of love and adventure. Featuring special guest artist Joanna Gleason, best known for her current roles on *Bette* and in the feature film *The Wedding Background*. On Broadway, she won a Tony for her performance in *Into the Woods*. Conducted by the Chorus' new Artistic Director, Dr. Kathleen McGuire. \$25 & \$40, reserved seating. 8pm. Also sun., April 29, 1pm & 5pm. 3301 Lyon St. (Marina District). Tix/info: 863-4472, ext. 9; Community box office, 400 Castro St.; www.sfgmc.org

### A Different Light Bookstore

"Front Runner 30th Anniversary." Author Patricia Nell Warren, whose uplifting novel inspired a generation of gay men, will read from her new novel, *The Wild Man*, a gay love story set within the bullfighting rings of Spain. Free. 2pm. 489 Castro St. (at 18th St.). Info: 431-0891

### Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy (HMCRA)

"Genderblast!" The Harvey Milk Institute and the Youth Gender Project (YGP) present an all-day conference for all transgender, transexual, genderqueer, intersex, and gender-questioning (TG/Q) youth, plus their friends and allies of all ages. A fun event where participants talk about their lives, issues, and anything of importance. Fourteen workshops, including "Trannyboy Warrior Princesses," "Genderqueer body Image for Youth," "Know Your Rights with the Police," "What's Homelessness Got to Do With It?" "Anti-Racism for TG/Q Youth," and more. Plus a presentation by Max and Corissa Anderson and others involved with production of the new trans movie *Southern Comfort*. ASL interpreted; disabled accessible. Free. 9:30am-4:30pm. 4235 19th St. Pre-registration (not required but preferred): phone 552-7200, or email HarvMilk@aol.com. Info: YGP at (510) 665-9234.

### Encantada Gallery

Michael Nava will read from *Rag & Bone*, the final novel of his Henry Rios series. This is Nava's only Bay Area appearance. Free. 3-5pm. 908 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 642-3939.

### The LAB

Galería de la Raza presents "Performatology II" by Los Cybrids: la Raza Techno-Crítica (digital artists John Jota Leanos, Mónica Praba Pilar, and Rene García), the latest in a series of performance/anti-panel discussions on the social, cultural and environmental consequences of Information Technologies. Tonight: "Webtopicon: Architecture of Control," in which experts in the field of internet surveillance and dataveillance share what they know of the emerging Global Information Infrastructure. They'll engage audience members in questioning corporate, military, and state control of individual identities and activities. 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp St.). Info: 826-8009.

### Dolores Park

"Reclaim May Day! Reclaim the Streets!" A celebration of International Workers' day and the ancient holiday of Beltane. A chance for activists to link global and local struggles. Maypole dance at 11am; entertainment 12:30-4:30pm. Performers on two stages range from hip hop to folk to theater and more. Food provided by Food Not Bombs and Rainbow Grocery. At about 4:30pm the celebration takes to the streets. Info: 339-7801; www.reclaimmayday.org

### Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

International cabaret artist Madame Jo performs the music of Edith Piaf at 8pm, followed at 10:30pm by Latin Calypso. \$5 cover. 1686 market St. Info: 864-3700.

### Space 550

Gus presents "Metropolis," featuring stellar DJ Susan Morabito of NYC in the Grand Ballroom, plus DJs Frank Abraham and Trane Amaro (Universe, Bump, Mass) in the Green Room. DJ



Terry Hatfield of the Deborah Slater Dance Theater performs *The Sleepwatchers* at Dance Mission. See Thursday.

Derek chills upstairs. Guaranteed boyfriend. Great dance space. \$20 (\$10 b4 11pm w/flyer). 10pm-8am. 550 Barn-eveled (btwn Oakdale & Industrial). Info: www.guspresents.com

## Sun 29

### People's Park, Berkeley

"People's Park 32nd Anniversary Festival," a time for all to be day dreamin', lovin', rockin' and rollin' in the grasses. Performances by Rebecca Riots, X-Plicit Players, and others. Specials guests Wavy Gravy, Julia Vinograd, and others. With skateboarding demos, an animal petting farm, visual arts, crafts, puppets and more. Free. 12:30-6pm. Haste St. and Telegraph Ave., Berkeley.

### Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin

"Spring Open House." Featuring works by current Artists-in-Residence including dancers The Foundry (Alex Ketley and Christian Burns), installation artist Stephanie Syjuco, musician Biggi Vinkelo; performance artist Ansuman Biswas, writer Eric Goodman, collaborative time Michael Brown, Elaine Bücholtz, Richard Johnson and Alison Sant, film/video maker Anthony Disenza, and many others. Performances, readings and discussions will take place throughout the day. Free. Noon-5pm. Info: 331-2787; www.headlands.org

### Culinary Institute of America at Greystone, St. Helena, Napa Valley

Napa Artists for People with AIDS (NAPA) presents "The Art of Giving, The Giving of Art." Napa's 4th annual art auction to benefit Napa Valley AIDS service organizations, the Arts Council of Napa Valley, and the Napa Valley College Foundation. View and bid on works donated by some of Northern California's finest artists. \$30 donation requested at door (applied toward any successful bid). Auction begins at 2pm; bidding closes at 4:30pm. 2555 Main St., St. Helena. Info: (707) 257-8686.

### Grace Cathedral Chapel

The SF Early Music Society presents renowned early music ensemble Medieval Strings in "Music Fit for A King," celebrating the art of courtly love. Featuring Karen Clark, contralto, and Shira Kammen and Margriet Tindemans, vielles and harps, performing French songs and dances from the 13th-century *Chansonnier du roi* (The King's Songbook). \$22 (\$19 members & seniors). 5:30pm. Tix/info: (510) 528-1725; www.sfems.org

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Morgan Territory Hike along the volvon Loop Trail on Mt. Diablo. The trail rises along sandstone hills to a ridge-line with terrific views. It's a moderate 8-10 mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

### HMI @ Eros

Harvey Milk Institute class: "Deeper Tissue Massage: For Men," with Ken Bridgeman (2 Sundays; 3:30-7:30pm; \$100). For those comfortable with the application of basic Swedish or Esalen techniques. Not a beginners class. Eros, 2051 Market St. (at Dolores). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.HarveyMilk.org

## Mon 30

### HMI @ HMCRA

Harvey Milk Institute class: "Lesbian Relationships: Agony & Ecstasy," with Diana Gray and Jude Kaye (2 Mondays; 6:30-9:30pm; \$40). Explore structured experiences to help achieve more satisfying, balanced, intimate relationships. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.HarveyMilk.org

### The Plush Room

Jazz vocalist Wesla Whitfield and pianist Mike Greensill perform in a benefit for the scholarship and financial aid programs at Community Music Center. Reception follows with wine, soft drinks, and catered buffet of exquisite finger food. \$150. 7:30pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



E-composer Bob Ostertag

## E-music buzz

Electronic music is the shit. That's how my inner teenager feels. Once when I was hanging out in a cabin in Yosemite Valley, playing my recorder, I said to a friend something like: "I hate that electronic music shit." In the space of less than a year, through the miracle of mind-changing, I had come to embrace that very shit. My senses opened to new impulses. Shit, redefined with an article, suddenly smelled sweet.

Which brings me to the second annual **San Francisco Electronic Music Festival**, taking place May 3-6 at three choice performance/art venues: **Cellspace**, **7Hz**, and **Southern Exposure**. It's a showcase for some of the shittiest — er, mind-blowing electronic-music composers and players this side of the ether.

One artist not to miss is **Bob Ostertag** (detritus.net), a local transplant who got his career start at Oberlin College in 1976, where he dropped the guitar and instead built a Serge modular synthesizer, which become his main ax (so he says). In 1992 he came to fame with a piece commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, *All the Rage*, including text by poet Sara Miles, featuring the sounds of San Francisco queers rioting for queer rights. The work, played around the world, was hailed by the *New York Times* for its "devastating roar of gay anger." Ostertag, who's hot on digital sampling, will be playing at Cellspace (2050 Bryant St.) at 9 p.m. along with clarinetist/computer whiz **Matt Ingalls** (sfSound.org/matt.html), LA audio activists **Ultra Red** (comatonse.com), who employ field recordings for a piece about immigrant laborers, and **Maggi Payne**, co-director of the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College in Oakland.

While it's hard to choose favorites among the talent line-up, my taste for the electronic equivalent of punk art-rock leads me directly to **Blectum from Blechdom** (blectum.com) at Cellspace on Sunday, May 6 at 8 p.m. This scrappy warped duo say they "believe their ideas are superior to 'normal' people's ideas," and boast of striving "to look down on other 'less-knowledgeable' musicians and musical-styles." Spoken like true punks. They'll be joined that night by **Fuzzy Bunny**, **Atau Tanaka**, and **iWT**, all of whom are crazy about computers and sound sensors.

The festival starts off at 9 p.m. Thursday, May 8 at 7Hz (1814 Illinois St.; www.7hz.org), with sound distortionists **Antimatter**, **Electric Birds**, **Thomas Dimuzio**, and **Scott Arford**. The latter uses as musical building blocks "discrete pieces of static, dissected and tuned... radio static, T.V. static, garbled transmissions, magnetic and electrical interference, ground loops, shorts and glitches — technological and cultural by-products of a media obsessed society." Sounds yummy. ▼

For details of the 2nd annual SF Electronic Music Festival, log on to [www.sfemf.org](http://www.sfemf.org).





The Visit, 2001, by Mona Kuhn — part of an exhibit of the naked body at Scott Nichols Gallery. See Thursday.

## Tue 1

### HMI @ HMCRA

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Queer Parenting: Surviving the First Year," with Patrick and Matt Califfa-Rice (one day only; 6:30-9:30pm; \$15). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.HarveyMilk.org

### Yerba Buena Center

"Dance/Screen," San Francisco Performances' program of international short dance films. \$6. 7pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Tix: 978-ARTS.

## Wed 2

### BANANAS, Oakland

"Interfaith Issues for Gay and Lesbian Parents," co-sponsored by BANANAS and Our Family. A free workshop for gay, lesbian and transgendered families. Religious and lay panelists will encourage discussion and offer solutions for multifamily families looking for ways to integrate teaching spirituality to their children. Free (\$5 limited child care). 7-9pm. 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland. Registration re-

quired: (510) 658-7353.

### ODC Theater

"Concurrence," a new musical series curated by Don Alan of Radio Valencia fame and Kyle Statham. Featuring local rock band Thinking Fellers Union Local 282, composer and multi-instrumentalist Fred Frith, and composer/clarinetist Beth Custer. \$6 gen'l; \$10 reserved. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

### A Different Light Bookstore

Students from Harvey Milk Institute's "Queer Autobiography" writing class, under the guidance of author Robert Philipson, share their original works. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

### HMI @ HMCRA

Harvey Milk Institute class: "Hey, That's My Copyright! Intellectual Property for Artists," with Brad Simon (2 Wednesdays; 7:30-9:30pm; \$40). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.HarveyMilk.org

### Intersection for the Arts

Opening reception: "Code 33," an installation by Suzanne Lacy, Julio Morales, Unique Holland, David Gold-

berg, Michelle Baughan, Raul Cabra and Patrick Toebe. "Code 33" — the police code for "emergency, clear the air" — was a two-year project by Oakland artists, activists, youth and police that culminated in a performance event with 150 youth and 100 police officers in 1999. This installation is a condensed archive of the event. Free. 6-9pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-2787.

## Thu 3

### Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: "For colored Boys...who have considered s-curly when the hot comb was enuf," a world premiere, written by Marvin K. White, based on his poetry relating to being both black and gay. Directed by Johari Jabir. The play deals with sexuality, loss, camp, family and church through a series of White's staged poems, with vibrant singing and flamboyant theatricality. Featuring Andre dos Santos Morgan, Marlon M. Bailey, Derek Lassiter, Cedrick Brown, Durant Rutledge, and White. \$12 previews (also on May 4); \$15 Wed., Thu., & Sun. matinees; \$20 Fri. & Sat.; \$25 opening night (Sat., May 5). 8pm (3pm & 7pm Sun.). 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & South Van Ness). Tix: 861-5079.

### Bindlestiff Studio

The One Act Wonders, directed by Alan Goy, present "Same Planet, Different Worlds: Tales of Womanhood...and Manhood," consisting of three works: "Best Half Foot Forward," by Peter Tolan (four friends on vacation in the New Hampshire backcountry begin to play on each other's insecurities and masculinity; with Dave dyson, Jayson Matthews, Alan S. Quismorio, and Stan Stone); original improvised scenes from guest artists The Fibbs; and "Sisters" by Cherie Vogelstein (two sisters, one married, the other single, re-evaluate themselves and the men in their lives as they try to maintain focus on a tennis match; with Lisa Larice and Parris Parsa). \$12. 8pm Thu.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. Thru May 13. 185 6th St. Tix: 974-1167.

### Dance Mission

art of the matter presents the SF debut of Deborah Slater Dance Theater in "The Sleepwatchers," conceived and directed by Slater with Jim Cave. A whirling, kaleidoscopic theatrical interpretation of the writings of sleep specialist Dr. William Dement, and a parable for our sleep-deprived times. \$15. 8pm. Thu.-Sat., thru May 12. 3316 24th St. Tix: 863-9834 or 826-4441. Info: 267-7687.

### ODC Theater

Lea Wolf and ODC Theater present "Diving Up, Dances by Lea Wolf," with special guests Kristin Hollinsworth and Mark Dechiazza of Susan Marshall & Company in New York. East Bay choreographer Rande Pauve previews a section of "Blood-tongueSeverTatterRend," a quintet created in response to overwhelming images of violence in the media. Wolf investigates the lure of gravity in the duet "Undertow." In "Heaven is a Place," she intermixes sound collage of text, choirs, and Talking Heads with a quirky, classic movement vocabulary. \$15. 8pm. Also May 4 & 5. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org/theater

### Scott Nichols Gallery

Opening reception: Images of nudes by Mona Kuhn, whose work has been praised for its intimacy: all the models who pose for Kuhn are her personal friends, whom the photographer has known at least five years. Free. 5-7:30pm. 49 Geary St., fourth floor. Info: 788-4641.

### A Different Light Bookstore

"Sex, Faith and Civil Right," an evening with Rutgers professor of sociology Arlene Stein, discussing her book *The Stranger next Door*. It's an analysis of how a small Oregon community dealt with a special referendum to prohibit "special rights" for homosexuals. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

### HMI @ HMCRA

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Essentials of Women's Self-Defense," with Women Defending Ourselves (4 Thursdays; 6:30-9:30pm; \$55-\$150 sliding). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/registration: 552-7200; www.HarveyMilk.org

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Angelina Vasile dances in Lea Wolf's *Drown* at ODC Theater. See Thurs.



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# Seriously fun week in SF

by Mister Marcus

A lot was happening around the leather world last week, especially here in San Francisco where, last Thursday night, April 29, seven men trooped to the stage at the Powerhouse to compete for the Mr. November 2002 spot on the bare chest calendar.

Judges, Bruce Chopnik, Houston Davenport, James Scott Geras and Mario Torrigino were hard put to pick from among hunks, who earned AAA ratings in the pulchritude department. The crowd on hand was very polite and vociferous about their own personal choices.

After an interlude of hilarity and nonsense, once the votes were counted, Kurt Cooper emerged the winner, with Paul Larson taking the runner-up spot.

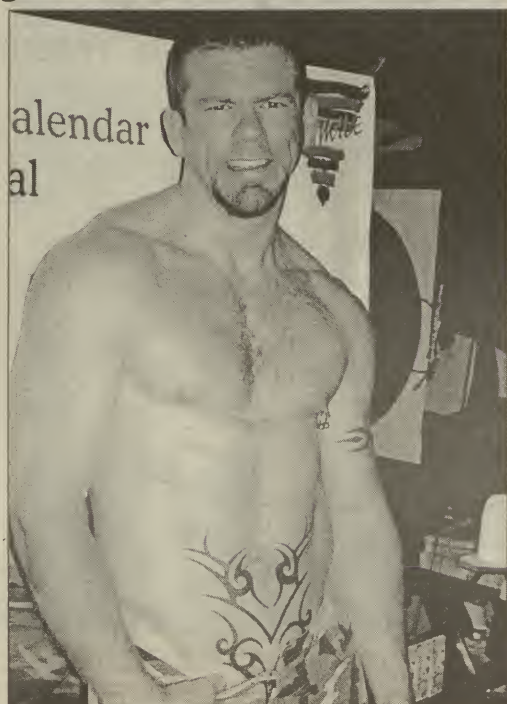
The final competition to name Mr. December 2002 will take place at the Powerhouse on Thursday, May 3, and the judges for this one will be Ed Morgan, Andy Rose and Mr. Russian River Eagle Leather Rodger Jensen.

After all 12 calendar spots are filled, there remains still one more on Thursday, May 17. On that date, all 12 winners will compete to see who will grace the 2002 calendar cover. The runner-up in that contest will take the back cover. Don't miss either competition!

By Friday night, April 20, the town was overrun with out-of-towners who came to participate in the celebration of Philip Turner's life at Trinity Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 21. The church was overflowing with almost 500 people, including leather men and women, and those who spoke at the testimony were able to inject a healthy amount of levity into their dialogue — more outbursts of laughter were heard throughout the service than one is accustomed to in a house of worship.

Afterward, the crowd moved over to the Castro where the street was closed off for two hours. If you didn't know any better, you would have thought you were in New Orleans. Disco divas from all over the place appeared, and a joyous celebration took place to the wonderment of the local yokels.

Queen Cougar, Donna Sachet, Jo Carol, Linda Imperial and the Dixie Land Dykes +3 had the street rocking with a parade, flags-



Kurt Cooper won the Mr. November 2002 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse last Thursday night, April 19. The final spot, Mr. December 2002, will be chosen on Thursday, May 3.

a-flying, leather people, title holders, bike clubs, and assorted merry makers. It was Philip's swan song, and how sweet it was. Lord only knows how many hangers there were the next day!

### Dildeaux redux


**Bazaar**

And it didn't end there. Within a couple of hours after the party, the crowd moved down to the Eagle Tavern where Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet held sway over the world's only sex-awards show — the Golden Dildeaux Awards, produced by the Golden Gate Guards.

I said it once and I'll say it again: This event has to be one of the campiest interludes in the leather year. Donna and Lenny were in great form, and biting innuendo ensued throughout as they poked fun at people's sexual proclivities. Almost everyone who won *really thought they deserved to win*, and the voting was hot and heavy at \$1 per ballot.

A few surprises turned up, in-

cluding a new face for the Dick of Death Award. It was a clean sweep for employees of the Edge bar and a lot of their customers, and there was much howling and carrying on all evening.

Berlin and Mark Paladini provided some very pleasant musical entertainment, but the people who won the awards were not to be outdone. Hilarity reigned all evening. Space limitations preclude my listing the complete list of winners but here are a few of them:

**Punchboard Award:** Werner Tillingier;

**Top of the Year:** Donna Sachet;

**Golden Globes:** John Mallett;

**Sliver Lips:** Donna Sachet;

**Best Performance in 3-**

**Ways:** Bill & Ralph at the Edge;

**Size Queen:** Gary the Old Bag;

**Best Female Performance**

**by a Male Impersonator:** Gary the Old Bag;

**Divine Miss M (masochist):**

"Mama";

**Dick of Death:** Jim Strano;

**Golden Boy (best all-around**

*next page ►*

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend April 27-29

Springtime in the capital (Washington, DC) with almost two dozen men, women and boys vying for the American Brotherhood sashes; I'll be judging with: Graylin Thornton, Kay Hallanger, Judy Tailwing McCarthy, Dean Ogren, Randie Smith and Paula Smith. It all takes place at the Washington Plaza if you're in the vicinity.

In Atlanta, it's the 14th Annual Springtime in the South leather weekend, a pansexual event with all sorts of panels, demos, discussions AND play parties. For info, call 505-521-3829 or send click on: [www.lambda.net/~atlsmol](http://www.lambda.net/~atlsmol).

### Saturday, April 28

The 15 Association's monthly play party at the usual venue. \$15 for non-members and guests must arrive with you. Doors 2100 to 2300. Party ends at 0200. For more info, phone 673-0452.

### Wednesday, May 2

Mr. SF Drummer and Drummer Boy contest takes

place at Daddy's and will be emceed'd by Omar Moseley and Ray Tilton. The winners advance to the Mr. Northern California Drummer and Boy contests in July. Don't miss this one!

### Thursday, May 3

Mr. December 2002 will be chosen at 2100 tonight at the Powerhouse. Last chance to get on the calendar! Win \$100, fame, and volunteer pride.

### Weekend, May 4-6

The first regional Drummer contest of the Drummer "season" is this weekend at the Dallas Eagle when Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer 2001 will be chosen. It's always fun at the Dallas Eagle.

In Utica, NY, the Utica Tri's MC celebrate their anniversary in that leather hot zone of upstate New York. It's always fun in Utica, too!

### Saturday, May 5

Celebration of the life of Bob Miller, Mr. Edge Leather 2000, at MCC Church.



# Frat boy flop

Chi Chi La Rue's flat 'Hazed'

by John F. Karr

Falcon Studio's latest release on their Jocks line is JVP 107: *Hazed*. You know this movie. It's the one where the frat brothers are putting their pledges through some very homosexual rites of brotherhood.

This time around, the brothers are a big-dicked and handsome quintet: cocky Matt Majors revels in his club-headed cock, and Brett Clark swings a double-wide bat. Andre Rivera is dark and peppery, Tony Lazzari adorable, and Ryan Zane must have been snatched off some fashion show's runway. Leading the pack as Pledgemaster is the ubiquitous yet always appreciable Blake Harper. His sharply etched and warmly furred musculature is altogether striking, and his attitude considerably livelier than usual as he puts the pledges through their paces like a drill sergeant.

Big-dicked though the brothers be, they can't intimidate the ever accommodating pledges Tristan Paris, Jackson Price, and newcomer Marc Nemeth, a slender, dark haired youth with a double length member. The brother's initiation begins rather unimintimidatingly. It's sort of safe-haze.

After the pledges have accepted some pedestrian objects in their mouths, Harper announces, "It's time to accept your brothers fully." You know what that means: penis. For the next three-quarters of an hour, the men suck cock and kiss, and graduate to some thor-

ough rimming, all the while swapping partners every which way. The demarcation between Brother and Pledge, traditionally Top and Bottom, is soon lost in a melee of mixed make-out that offers several impressive sights. Get a load of spy athlete Paris, bending far enough forward as he's rimmed by Majors to suck the guy's cock as it pokes between his ankles!

## Too little Rush

Then, following a group wank-off, there's a pause for more hazing, as candles are stuck up the boy's butts, and lit. This rectum warming announces the arrival of Matt Rush, the fraternity's star quarterback brother, who's about to lead off the movie's final half hour of ass action. Rush is a magnificent demigod of teenmuscle. He's fresh from the field, he says, and his jock ass is sweaty (even though to the eye it appears as clean and dry as Kitty Carlisle's



Matthew Rush gets boffed over and over in Falcon Studios' *Hazed*.

powdered cheek).

After squatting on the face of just about everyone present, Rush makes ready to fuck them.

First, though, Tristan sucks his weighty cock, and Rush jacks off as he sucks Tristan. It's the least he can do for the boy, who within minutes is going to be boffed by everyone in the building. Rush

cushions Tristan's head against his thighs, and the men fuck him, I think, in ascending order of dick size. A general fuckathon ensues, with Blake providing a highpoint as he services the overly excited Nemeth. For the finale, Tristan's pledge sweater is draped across his tummy, and everyone shoots on him. Thus united in brotherhood, the men embrace.

To the benefit of *Hazed*, nobody in the movie ever pretends to be straight, or protests having gay sex. This is a thoroughly gay bunch of Greeks. That's a welcome improvement on the traditional hazing movie.

It must also be said, however, that *Hazed* in no other way freshens the form. There's little imagination — or entertainment — shown in the hazing activity. It fails in its typical purpose of sexualizing the proceedings, and pads a full ten minutes before anything vaguely sexual does occur. The set is

patently false, someone's rec room with a distractingly patterned pennant hanging behind the action. Linoleum flooring, metal ducting and concrete walls make the sound reverberant and hard. Surgical lighting only accentuates the antiseptic presentation of the models. The constantly roving camera prefers incidents to involvements, underscoring or perhaps creating the performer's lack of personal investment in much of the action.

Worst of all, after making us wait 50 minutes before bringing on the piece de resistance, director Chi Chi La Rue resists using Matt Rush more than is absolutely necessary. The sizable yet harmonious bulk of Rush's muscular body in action is beautiful, yet it's hardly displayed. An abundance of tight close ups, strange framing, and apparent lack of gravity rarely allow even the impact of the full group to register, in what is, after all, basically an ensemble effort.

*Hazed* delivers this year's dose of the frat boy fantasy with a disarming lack of creativity. For Mr. La Rue, it's hack work. What could have had him so distracted, so disheartened? Could it have been the three dozen other videos he's made this year? Yeah, you know this movie. It's the one where the frat brothers are putting their pledges through some very homosexual rites of brotherhood. ▼

Visit [www.Jocksstudio.com](http://www.Jocksstudio.com); 1-800-227-3717

and spirited audience attended to see Steve Johnson win the title sash. Mr. Johnson advances to compete for the Mr. Oklahoma Leather title later this year.

## American Brotherhood Weekend

This coming weekend, hundreds of leather people will converge in Washington, D.C. for the annual American Brotherhood Weekend. The main draw for this leather party is the competition to choose the 2001 American Leather Man, American Leather Woman and American Leather Boy;

I will be judging this one

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

sex): Ray Tilton;

**Pushy Bottom:** Eric Weinmann (the Edge);

**Tea Room Commando:** Don "Ho" Tse.

Some very good news for the leather community — and the source of much jubilation all weekend — is that Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt was elected one of the Grand Marshal's for this year's Gay Pride Parade.

Meanwhile, in Oklahoma City, the Mr. Sooner State Leather contest was taking place, and a big

again, and Dean Ogren, Paula Smith and Randie Smith will be stepping aside. I understand a crowbar has been readied to pry the sash off of Dean! In addition, some 25 IML contestants will be there, since almost all the IML 2001 judges will be attending this great weekend, so there will be much jockeying for position beyond the confines of the ABW activities. You'll be the first to know the winners of this award-winning competition. ▼

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Claudia Shear as Mae West in *Dirty Blonde*

## Shear radiance

'Dirty Blonde' at Theatre on the Square

by Richard Dodds

A comedy that operates as a finely tuned machine is not necessarily without a heart. Take a look at *Dirty Blonde*, which knows where it wants to go, knows just how to get there, and yet gives an audience a joyous ride in the process.

The recent Broadway production has arrived pretty much intact at Theatre on the Square, where the feel-good quotient is especially high these days. Strong reviews and positive word of mouth should spell an extended run, but don't dally. Claudia Shear, the star and author, is committed to just ten weeks, and trust me, you want to see her performance.

Make that "performances." Shear exquisitely plays two characters that are fundamentally different, and yet that somehow meld by the play's conclusion. One of those characters is Mae West, who we see both as an ambitious young vaudeville performer and as the calcified camp icon of her later years. The other is a struggling New York actress named Jo, a self-identified loser who finds unexpected strength from West's legacy.

The wisecracking Jo also finds a soul mate during a pilgrimage to West's gravesite in Queens. Charlie is an overweight, introverted film historian who Jo takes to be a lonely gay man, but who has sev-

eral surprises for her — and for us. Not only did he get to meet Mae West during the final years, she also encouraged him to impersonate her for the sake of the tour busses that passed her apartment. He has the dresses to prove it.

When Jo stumbles upon Charlie's lingering, deeply private, cross-dressing fixation, it confirms her notion that he can never be more than a platonic friend. Charlie has another surprise for Jo, which leads to a breathtaking final surprise for the audience. This is a rare mainstream play that has room in its heart for happy fetishists.

Shear herself was a struggling actress until a few years ago when her one-woman play *Blown Sideways Through Life*, which comically recounted that struggle, suddenly gave her an identity. Director James Lapine, whose credits range from *Sunday in the Park with George* to *Falsettos*, suggested to Shear that they collaborate on a piece about Mae West, and his skillful, stylish hand is much in evidence.

At its heart, the play is a romantic comedy, not a dark rumination on the nature of celebrity or of its worship, but the production scores its points with such confidence that even the lightweight seems substantial here.

Nor is there a false note from the cast. Tom Riis Farrell, who replaced Kevin Chamberlain during

the Broadway run, is wonderful as Charlie. Both in his scenes as an awkward young acolyte in West's apartment and in his self-protective shell as an adult, Farrell captures the heart of this hefty closeted sprite. Bob Stillman, who's also the show's musical director, expertly recreates his multiple roles as West's various attendants.

And of course there is Shear, a force in her own right, who corals her overflowing energies into a controlled but emotionally rich performance. Don't miss this rare melding of artist and role, a union that has found a happy home in San Francisco. ▼

**Tickets (\$30 - \$50) to *Dirty Blonde* at Theatre on the Square are on sale through June 17. Call 433-9500.**

## Baise-Moi

◀ page 31

film that was banned in, of all places, France. It plays the Roxie Cinema from April 27-May 6.

*Baise-Moi's* street credentials are impeccable. Codirector Coralie Trinh Thi is a former porn star, as are the two leading actresses. The film has the look and feel of Denmark's *Dogme* school; it's shot in video rather than film; employs natural light; and uses "normal people" instead of high-falutin' stars. Most daring, it includes many scenes of penetrative, close-up sex, with a particularly brutal rape scene that has brought the wrath of censors around the world. Canada, always free with the scissors, has simply lumped it in with the porn, refusing to let it be shown in Ontario in mainstream theaters despite an enthusiastic reception at last September's Toronto International Film Festival and testimonials by such luminaries as Atom Egoyan. That it's getting a release in America at all is more than a little surprising.

### French idlers

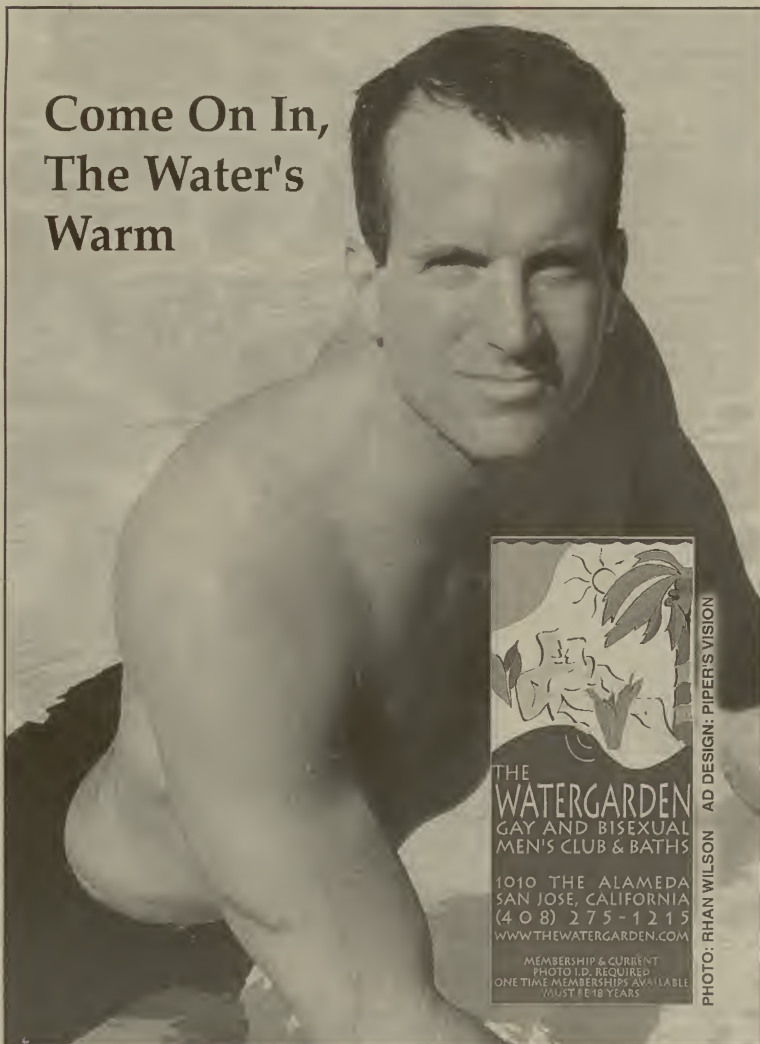
Based on codirector Desportes' novel of the same title, the film follows the adventures of Manu (Rafaela Anderson) and Nadine (Karen Bach), two bored, beleaguered, sexually aggressive young women. Manu is an underage porn star; Nadine is a prostitute. "There's no work in France," one of them says, and we can believe it as we watch aimless youth and the not-so-young wandering the streets, setting up cheap dope deals, smacking each other around, loitering in pool halls, and generally running (make that slouching) amok. This is not exactly Paris in the Spring.

Nadine's curse is an anal roommate who bitches constantly about Nadine pilfering her beer. Manu is involved with a noxious pack of slackerboys who abuse her regularly. Nadine eventually gets tired of her roommate's complaint and slams her head into a wall in a bloody murder. Manu watches her alleged friends kill her best friend on the street; then she's raped. This makes later murders a breeze. Serendipitously, the two join forces to fuck their way through the byways of France, in the process killing a slew of men and the occasional woman who foolishly crosses their path.

Nadine and Manu kill the way they fuck, with a mix of the me-

next page ►

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## THEATRE

# Gender bending, 999 AD

## Moira Buffini's 'Silence' at Magic Theatre

by Richard Dodds

The setting of *Silence* is England in the year 999, so our ears prick up when, early in the play, the heroine looks at her new surroundings and says, "What a dump." Despite the somber title, the forbidding era, and a grim plot threatened in the press release, we are quickly put on notice that this is not to be a reverent historical drama.

This is not to say that Moira Buffini's play, having its US premiere at the Magic Theatre, is a frivolous enterprise. But its examination of sexual roles is whipped up into a surprisingly frothy mix of comedy, drama, politics, social commentary, and even lesbian liberation.

England in 999 was not a particularly peaceable kingdom. Worries of a millennial Armageddon were prevalent, while Viking invasions led to atrocities on both

sides. The ineffectual but cruel King Ethelred (a comically infantile Liam Vincent) was not the man for the moment, and he has been cast as a key player in *Silence*.

As his kingdom crumbles, he arranges a strategic marriage between Ymma (a bold Nina Gold), a daughter of the Duke of Northmandy, and Silence (a vibrant Rachel Black), the prince of the Cumberland region. To both the king's and Ymma's surprise, the vaunted Prince Silence is but a 14-year-old boy. Still, Ethelred insists that the union take place. In her wedding bed, Ymma is in for a bigger surprise. Silence is actually a girl, something she herself didn't realize until now.

Ymma and Silence become part of a motley crew fleeing the king, and much of the play is a depiction of their journey toward Cumberland. Their retinue includes Ymma's caustic servant (Delia MacDougall), a nervous priest (Alex Moggridge) who is

fearful even of fields, and a brutish guard (Craig Neibaur) who is a devotee of magic mushrooms.

By the end of the second act, the journey can seem a long one, but the play is traveling such novel territory that the occasional languor is forgivable. Director Barbara Damashek's production and cast capture the complicated whimsy of Buffini's words, and cleverly moves the action about David Scanlin's curiously deco set.

Buffini's play is a surprisingly inviting take on sexual politics set in world both distant and emotionally recognizable. This *Silence* is mostly golden. ▼

*Silence* will run at the Magic Theatre through May 13. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Call 441-8822.

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Rachel Black as the young prince Silence in Moira Buffini's *Silence*

## Baise-Moe

◀ previous page

thodical and the passionate. Some of the killings fit the feminist schema: for example, when Manu blows the brains out of one of her tormentors. Others are gratuitous, as when she robs and then kills a woman at an ATM machine. Most troubling, at first glance, is a John Woo-style balletic assault on a sex club, with innocent revelers dispatched mid-fuck. This scene, along with the ATM murder, would seem to undermine the film's feminist/liberationist stance. But there's ultimately more nihilism than party-hearty here, with the nonstop killings laid squarely at the doorstep of a society that's dehumanized its citizens.

While some critics (and certainly the censors) have objected to the rape scene as "gratuitous," it's hard to fault the film's insistence on showing the gruesome details of this event to capture its ugly reality. Codirector Desportes has commented, "We had to go to a place that everyone tries to avoid. We had to be so in your face that we will end up in your mind with images that you just can't ignore." This is not to say it's all

grim, grainy reality. Some of the encounters are warm, almost sweet, particularly when our heroines, who seem most alive during sex, pick up two hunks. (Size queens will be shocked but interested to know that, at least according to the film, every man in France is well-hung.) The film provides another respite in a scene in which the women, clad in fetishy black bras and nylons, dance together in a hotel room. There's a joyousness and abandon here that hints at another, more pleasurable world, always close but never quite here, beyond the brutality. The actresses' ease with their sexuality may be partly responsible for making such scenes, which could easily degenerate into foolishness, work.

*Baise-Moi* plays a risky game with the audience in alternating hardcore sex scenes with violence. It's hard not to feel voyeuristic, even complicit in what transpires onscreen. But this is surely the directors' intent, and the film's ability to foster this sense of complicity in the viewer makes it a disturbing but worthwhile ride. ▼

*Baise-Moi* opens Friday at the Roxie.

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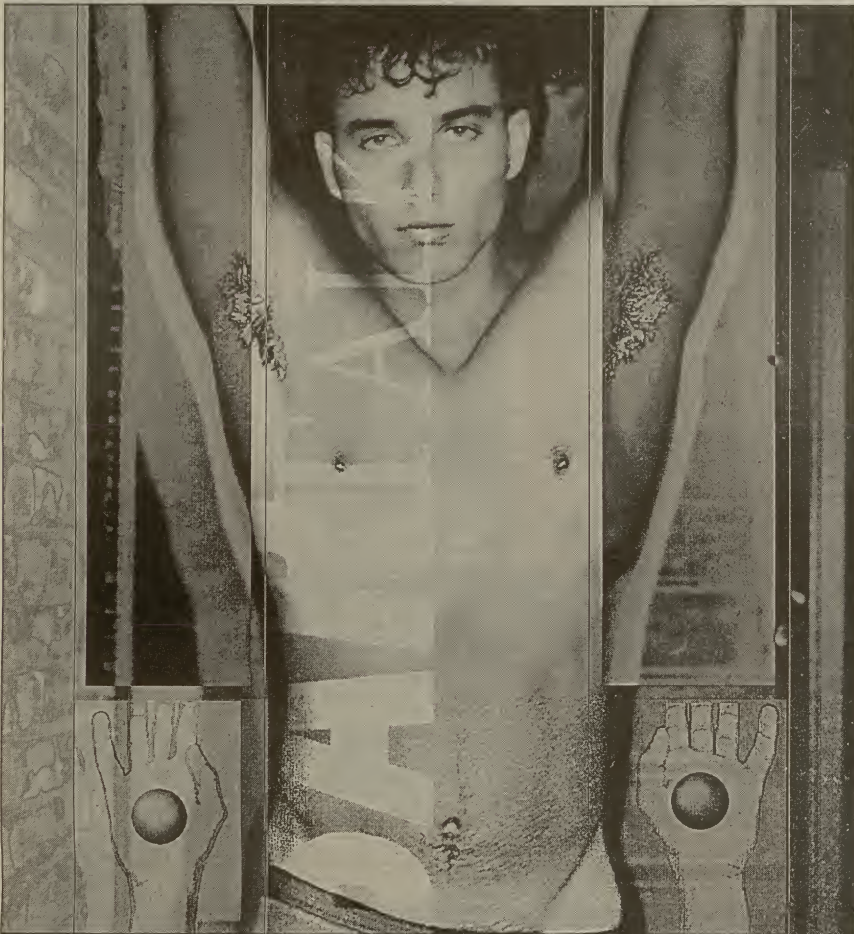


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### PARTING GLANCES

**Eric @ Badlands, Sunday 3/11**  
You: New Castle Brown, San Francisco. Me: Tanqueray and Tonic, New York, New Zealand. Together we drank shots. Let's be friends. Richard. ☎ 71112

**~Brandon From Scott Street~**  
First Harveys, then in our neighborhood. Been hoping to hear from you, so trying this! Dinner, show, or drink? Ron ☎ 71182

**Jeff The Wine Rep Call Gary**  
We met Sat afternoon 3/17, in front of Harvest Market. Talked about travel & books. Let's meet for coffee. ☎ 71148

**Sun 3/11 Blow Buddies**  
Jim- I had a great time. Don't know if you're available, but would like to see you. S. ☎ 71113

**Thursday Night- Luna Piena 4-12**  
You: African American eating with friend (African American). Me: short hair, saw you on the street, smiled, turned, smiled again. Dinner? ☎ 71203

**"Rob" Attn Daytime Cocksucker**  
You: 5'9", 190#, 47yrs. Bld/Blk, clean shave. U answered ad #72879 on 3-27-01. Unable to reach you at the # you left. Pls call. ☎ 71166

**Into Latex Sex**  
Latex sex is hot sex is safe sex! Always wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Play safe! ☎ SAFE

**~Fiddler On The Roof 2/27~**  
We saw each other before show, during intermission, and after. I wanted to give you my business card, but you were gone. You, very handsome, dark featured. I have trimmed beard and with a woman w/red hair. ☎ 71116

**Head On The Island? You Called**  
After I answered that ad of yours- you said to call when I'm home to talk but you left no number to call. Would love to but need phone number or e-mail address. Al in Oakland. ☎ 71201

**Lombard Office H&R Block Apr. 6**  
Joining inside after you almost flipped your bike in the rain, we signed papers for tax women. Smiling, you said goodbye, leaving me fixated on your chin-stubbed face. ☎ 71181

**Tuesday 3/6 6am, Not Quite Dawn**  
You walking down 22nd St toward Eureka- I was walking small dog across the street. We both turned and cruised a few times. What about a early morning fun before work. ☎ 71119

**Fr 3/16 Cont' 11:30a NY To SF**  
U seat 14D. I in row ahead of U. Tall, green vest. U let me in row on exit. Wanted to talk; deaf from landing. Prepare for take off? 12F ☎ 71114

**Gap Store- Powell St. Sat. Aft.**  
Saturday afternoon, 3/31, you: dark hair, with friend. Me: with kids, short pants. Looked, looked back. In store and at register. Dinner? ☎ 71183

**Rancher Seeking John, You Called**  
Hi John. You answered my ad. You didn't leave an area code. Please call again with phone number. ☎ 71147

**Guy @ Next Table Nirvana, 3/18**  
You: GWM, quicksilver on shirt sleeve. Me: GAM, red shirt, asked what you were having, very attracted to you. Eye contact. You winked as you left. You & I, dinner? ☎ 71118

**•Dolores Park, Jan 2**  
Garret, hospitalized that night. Just out. Call me before April 15th. Still need web site & manuscript back. ☎ 71115

**Asian With Letter Tattoos on Chest**  
Looked at each other several times in locker room and nodded hello. Me: White male with blonde hair and muscular build. Lets connect. ☎ 71144

**The Sling 2/24? or 3/3?**  
I'm the novice who got on my knees for you. You gave me your phone # and I told you I would call. I lost your # that night and would like to re-connect. ☎ 71145

**Bev & More Parklot 3/19 7pm**  
You: Hunkey sexy Black guy, red t-shirt, Volvo. Me: White guy, limp w/cane, loading trunk burgundy Camry. We smiled, nodded hello. Too shy to talk, let me try again. ☎ 71146

**3/31 #35 Eureka**  
You: Tall, olive t-shirt, youthful, headphoned, handsome. Me: S/P hair, a tad chunky, older, attractive. We exchanged shy smiles. Can we meet? Please call. ☎ 71165

**•Ryan At Pilsner- Thurs Mar 15**  
You were VGL and nice. Me: Longish dark hair entertaining another. Wanted to entertain you. My friend hitting on you but you seemed interested in me. Let's meet again. ☎ 71117

**Easter Candy At Walgreens 4/14**  
We exchanged several quick glances while shopping for Easter candy at Walgreens at Castro and 18th that afternoon. You: short brown hair, jeans. Can we meet? ☎ 71202

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**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
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**~Italian Guys!~**  
I was born to love you and I live to please you. I am every Italian male's fantasy and every Italian male's dream! ☎ 71121

**Asian And Latino Men**  
Steady sex for Asian & Latino men. I'm GWM 6'2", 165lbs. Would like to suck you when you feel horny. Just a phone call away. Your sex object. ☎ 71123

**Hot French Love**  
French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in early 40's. ☎ 71151

**Seek Hairy Partner**  
GWM, 50, seeks 40-50yr old for LTR. Must be honest and have good sense of humor. My interests include traveling, movies, concerts, quiet evenings at home. ☎ 71124

**HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans**  
Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71125

**"A Serious Ad!"**  
GWM, Artist, 43. Handsome, masculine, smart, creative, sensitive, funny, HIV-neg. Very non-scene. ISO GWM with similar qualities for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71126

**~Affectionate Men!~**  
WLM 45, 6', 160 dk hr. moustache ISO affectionate mover 50 with beards (full/bushy A+) for passionate kissing, cuddling, loners, rustic-looking A+. Lt drink, smokers ok but no drugs, gay scene. ☎ 71127

**Brains And Brawn**  
Attractive Black guy; smart, employed, independent, no games conservative, educated professional, 5'10", 180, 43, 44" chest, 31inch waist, uncut, muscular nice body, HIV+, mostly bottom. Seeking a masculine, muscular top. ☎ 71128

**Affectionate Nasty Sex & More**  
Looking for a normal honest drug-free Topman 40-50, HIV+ to explore sex, friendship & fantasies with. Body not important as attitude. I'm 39, 6'4", 200lbs, HIV+, attractive & horny. ☎ 71149

**GWM Seeks Man Of Color Tops**  
For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, Blonde, HIV+, slim, somewhat hairy. Like outdoors, mutual massage, building a life. Where? Let's find answers. ☎ 71150

**Big Heart & Nice Cock**  
Warm, funny, attractive, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, br/br, goatee, Italian/Irish mix, professional, HIV-, looking for down-to-earth guys under 40, love to give and get massage. Call me! ☎ 71152

**Seeking Active Masculine Top**  
Me: Handsome healthy educated Mid-age Asian in fine shape, 5'7"; You: Clean, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have tool able & eager to pump me deep. ☎ 71153

**Wyoming First Time Ready???**  
30yr old Indian male seeks other first time males out there prefer black, asian males in good shape and health need not be an "stud" lets explore our world today. I'm Ready Are You?? ☎ 71167

**Searching for Gigantic Nipples**  
Muscular GWM, 42 wanting to date a muscular smooth guy w/Huge protruding thick nipples. ☎ 71168

**Semi Retired GWM 60yr 6'2" 5ks**  
Ame 45 to 65 for new friends. I enjoy quiet evenings with someone special dining out or cooking in together. Enjoy my home, pets, gardening, long walks, mutual massage, oral sex, n/s, n/d pref. Hope you would like a new relationship. ☎ 71122

**Cute Fat Guy f/ Skinny 18-32yo**  
Me: Professional, 32, 6', 285#, good looking GWM, inexperienced bottom. You: Thin to normal (170# or so) White or Asian with delicious asshole to eat. Looking for possible LTR. ☎ 71174

**•Chubby Bear Seeks Same•**  
GWM, 38, 5'10", 250, brown eyes/ hair/beard seeks same 30-45. N/S/N/D. Likes! theatre, opera, quiet times, good food; quiet and shy. ☎ 71184

**~Lonely In South Bay!~**  
Lean masculine WM 43 seeks experiences with and be close to. Not into gay scene. Enjoy the outdoors, music, films, picnics & affection. ☎ 71185

**"You, Me, Us!"**  
Stable, upbeat GAM, 34, 5'6", HIV-, looking to meet/date similar A/W men, 30-40 in East Bay. Want someone who can be honest, compassionate, monogamous. Let's talk. ☎ 71187

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**



**Dorky Literate Jazzy Hipsters!**  
Me: 35 Latino mutt, dark brn eyes/hair, tall/slank, down. Wanted: gregarious, spontaneous, make-me-laugh, youngish guys who like to play, dance, camp, read. Sagittarian friendly. No frills. ☎ 71204

**Romantic Bright Prof X N.Yorker**  
Seeks prof, sane, cuddly guy for good times. I'm 6ft, 160lbs, healthy HIV+, passionate, irreverent, Jewish. Your under 50, employed, attractive, any race. ☎ 71205

**Nice GMM 47 Open To Meet You**  
Of you like to be sucked I'll be your Latin girlfriend in Santa Rosa love to man we can fuck in the river. Call mi. ☎ 71207

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71206

**"I Want You The Right Way!!"**  
GMM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips +. ☎ 71186

**Affectionate Men Over 50**  
WLM 45, 6' 160lbs, dk hr. ISO men 50+ for sensual times or poss LTR. Facial hair, husky, working class, left-wing politics A+. No gay scene, drugs, but smoking ok. ☎ 71208

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**~Big Beefy Tits!~**  
MiK'm, hold'em, let me feed them to you. Big husky bear into guys who are into big tits. Age, race, age not important- knowing what you like is. ☎ 71130

**"Older Black Men!!!!"**  
Healthy HIV+ WM bottom, 58, seeks older Black men that want a buddy to call for eager service, when the need arises. NoGay A+. ☎ 71131

**Super Hung Guys Wanted!**  
If you are hung "9" inches or more, call me. I'm hung 9 and I'm looking for hung guys to party with & have fun. ☎ 71132

**Professional ISO Safe Clean Fun**  
5'10" clean cut, slender 37 Asian. Not into scene or stereotypes. Responsible and stable. Enjoy long for play, kissing, jo, oral showers, lots of body contact. ☎ 71133

**•Safeway Smile, Market Street•**  
You've got a great smile. Wednesday 6p.m. 4/11. Check out lines. Let's meet for lunch. ☎ 71214

**HIV- Oral Enthusiast ISO Same**  
Masc. WM, non-gym, HIV-, smoker ISO: same, 40+ with facial hair and 6+ thick dick for mutual. 45, 6', 185# beard, balding, kisser, 7" cut. In leather optional. ☎ 71134

**"Do You Need A Daddy?"**  
Late 40s, GWM, balding silver fox, versatile. Passionate play. Not S&M, not leather. Clean and sober. Single, sensuous sane. Furry, 5'9", 35" w. No age restrictions, prefer 25+-. ☎ 71135

**FF Butts Wanted**  
Make me copy of any FF tape. My med hands up your butt for hours. BM, 5'9", 185, welcome any race, your place. ☎ 71160

**~Up To Service!~**  
You kickback. I'll take time and suck cock and balls. Plus if your cut and hung thick. Me GWM, healthy, negative. I love cock. ☎ 71137

**Hot Latin Bottom**  
32yrs old, 5'11", 175lbs, works out, great shape & very good looking. ISO masc top men, you should be in good shape, good looking & HIV-. Age & race not important. Perf in East Bay. ☎ 71155

**Be My Desire**  
Versatile, white East Bay male, HIV-, slender, 5'8", 156, 50s, seeks fun time guys, HIV-, age/race open. Black tops A+. Asian bottom A+. Please no games. ☎ 71157

**ISO Skinny White-Butt Lil Bro**  
HIV+ only. White/Latin, mellow, 38, 6'2", 170lbs, looking for pasty skin. You like to sniff, lick & eat/suck. I like to pin you down. No drugs. Pot ok. ☎ 71158

**Stalking**  
A body in-shape with nipples aroused by touch, a tongue fulfilled by licking, a butt in play, a bent compliant. The stalker? Slim, well-proportioned, Arab and masterful, over fifty and lascivious. ☎ 71161

**Black Male Seeks Black Cock**  
Wanted: Clean, trim, verbal, discreet, BM, (25-50) who loves a great BJ. Me: 40's, fit, oral. Reciprocation unnecessary. SF. ☎ 71164

**~~~~Bondage~~~~**  
East Bay Master seeks slave for bondage and/or lite S/M. The curious welcome. Bi's and Str8, versatile, discreet, and safe. ☎ 71169

**Hot Latin Seeks Generous Asian**  
Str8-acting, good looking latino, 25yo, 6' 160#, seeks submissive, generous men to service my needs. ☎ 71170

**Poz GBM Sks Wht Cocksucker**  
37, 175 lbs wants sim build Wht boy. Be under 35 & into kissing & sucking. A+ for nerdy or short. ☎ 71215

**Butt Buddiez!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
Playroom for one on one/small groups. Fingers, toys, fist, action. Versatile only, no hard drugs. Hot play attitude more important than looks/age. GWM, 42/6'3", beard/Bear. ☎ 71172

**Latin Top**  
Seeks eager bottoms, any race, h/wt proportionate, 35+ for hot times. I'm 5'10", 175#, muscular, moustache and smooth with great stamina. Smoke, aroma ok.... ☎ 71173

**(Weight Lifting Nudge)**  
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Come over, get in shape. Am 48, 5'9", 190#, workout regularly. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71175

**Hairy And Uncut**  
W male 50yrs slim hairy 7inch uncut HIV- seeks w male HIV- for oral play. ☎ 71136

**\*\*Horse Hung Seeks Same\*\***  
VGL BM, 30, 5'11", horse hung 9.5", clean-cut, former model, muscular 195#, fun loving, seeks horse hung men who are 9" or more, or beer can size. Any race/age. ☎ 71176

**Black Men Who Would Enjoy The..**  
Services offered by a submissive white bottom who enjoys wearing lingerie and being your white pussy. 5'8", 155# satisfaction on a regular basis. ☎ 71189

**Gay Cherokee Wants Boyfriends!**  
I am from Oklahoma, love blondes. Drop me a line, I love Mike Crews, Charles Ely, Zak Hanson, Aaron Carter, & Michael Lucas. ☎ 71190

**Hairy Little Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
Hairy muscular poz top, 5'8", 140, skinhead, avg cut tool, wants hairy poz bottom, same size or smaller, muscled, for pec work, stim., wrestling, and rough sweaty butt banging. ☎ 71156

**Return To Paradise!**  
Clean cut man seeks same, wanting to share a simple peaceful life in a rustic cabin, with self supported solar cells, spring water, etc. Age open 20's-50. ☎ 71159

**"Love To Suck Horny Men!"**  
Any race- age 30-50 yrs. old. (I'm 6' 165 GWM), 6" or more. Ok under 200lbs. "Please." If you feel horny- just call me. I also go deep! ☎ 71191

**Brazilian 5'7", 142# Seeking "GWM"**  
Warm, funny, attractive, 36yr old. Nice dick, clean, stable, sincere, looking 4 fun maybe more. I live in Concord. I'm willing to travel. ☎ 71192

**Palo Alto 44, 5'11" 190 Blk-Brn**  
GAM seeks top man for oral maneuvers. Will drive to you. Also likes bare bottom spankings. ☎ 71212

**JerK You Off?**  
Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Tortured? Attractive, fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71193

**Looking For Sweet Black Daddy**  
Bi WM late 40's want older Black man, 50's, 60's. Retired, seniors- let me touch, stroke, kiss suck, serve your big thing & take care of it. Castro area. ☎ 71211

**Bi- Curious Seeks Couple**  
Who will grind pelvises together while I lick both and j/o w/a, any age, be patient, sensitive to my inexperience. 6'1" w 210 blk, gyn. ☎ 71195

**~Hot Bottom Boys!~**  
46yrs, 5'10" brn brn, hairy chest, workout, hot, hard 9", looking for bubble butt bottoms. ☎ 71194

**~Forensic Service~**  
Muscular, fit W/M 45 needs uncut stud with low hangers to unload on my face. Love foreskin and big balls. I'm in Sonoma Co., but can travel. ☎ 71209

**Hot, Masc. Horny WM Seeks Same**  
You: under 30, tall, clean-cut, hung, top/vers., WM. Me: 6'2", 175, brown/blue, clean-cut. Besides sex, you should like movies, sports, dogs, outdoors, home-cooking and cuddling. ☎ 71210

**Seeking HIV+ Guy 4 Fun & More**  
Attractive tall 41yo GWM seeks orally talented 26-38yo eager bottom or versatile guy any race with small slim build smooth or light body hair for hot sex dating possible LTR. ☎ 71154

**Healthy HIV+ Bodybuilding**  
37yrs old 5'8"- 153# brn skin, warm, sincere, looking 4 masculine slim guy NS/ND, under 40yrs., small nice butt. Live in SF. No to conservative. ☎ 71188

**"Sonoma County Dad!"**  
Would love to pamper and service very pretty, androgynous young men. 18-25. Let me indulge you. I am generous, fun, very oral. ☎ 71213

**Oral Service**  
GAM 30s seeks mature GWM, hung thick for sucking fun. San Mateo Co. Please be clean HIV-, non-smoking. ☎ 71171

**~Look No Further!~**  
SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6'175, HIV-, neg, br/br, hairy, clean & horny, looking to serve slim fun, attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude regularly, my place SF. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71216

**Dominant Mature GWM**  
ISO submissive well built HIV- GWM to train for my pleasure. Total obedience and discipline a must for this 6'3" daddy-master. ☎ 71217

**Tough Stroke Squeeze Shoot**  
Is your favorite part of a massage "squeeting off"? I specialize in concentrating on your mid-section/wintense attention to cock & balls. Oiled up and keeping you on the edge of cumming. 55, clean/healthy, UB2, no \$, no reciprocation, just relax enjoy. ☎ 71162

## FETISHES

**Daytime- Asshole- Eater!**  
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! ☎ 71138

**I'm An Early "Riser"**  
I need my thick Black Oakland power tool drained by an oral expert at 5:30a.m. weekday mornings only. Serious callers only please. ☎ 71139

**For An Edwardian Gentleman...**  
An experienced, mature sexual slave. Experience new pleasures! Punish him. Submit to him. etc. Please inquire. SF. ☎ 71140

**My Idea Of Ideal Cockucking:**  
Enticing your big brimming balls into world class eruptions--- throat-drilling spurts that would exceed 6ft in the clear! Why not audition me tonight? ☎ 71141

**I Clean Dirty Cocks.....**  
And strap-ons after and before you go in. Humiliation and piss needed by this healthy 58 yo. Bottom guy. Phone--- ☎ 71142

**The Pause That Ultra Refreshes**  
Nothing in this world equals your fresh hot piss blasting direct from your dick down my throat--- 100% natural/ no caffeine/ no carbonation/ 100% pure real- guy pleasure for us both! ☎ 71143

**Hot Horny Hairy Homo Erectus**  
Ichn 28 milked dry. Cutcastron cock is throbbin 4 relief. 6/160/47/GL. ExUSN/ BuzzsackGot. Big thick bush. Nurse root deep on it all weekend & lots of shootin big cum wads. LTR? ☎ 71163

**Drag Queens for Daytime Fun...**  
Me: Bi-HM, 53, ISO Drag Queens. Plusses: Redheads, cigar-smokers, 69 wearing. Victoria Secrets attire. 20-40 only, No Drugs! ☎ 71177

**DiaperBoy ISO Dad/Master**  
Diaper Boy not a baby 6ft, 190#, br/hair, hazel eyes, HIV- only for bondage discipline, humiliation and serving dad. You be over 45 loving dad/master. ☎ 71178

**Major Leather, Fetish Action!**  
Seeks others with fantasies and fetishes with leather. GWM, looks hot in full leather with cock, balls and ass. Hanging out of chaps. Asians welcome. Serious leather fetish only. ☎ 71197

**"Fisting Bottoms Wanted!"**  
By Latino guy who loves to play with asses, must be under 50 and have your own place and toys. I want to stretch your asshole. ☎ 71198

**"Scat!"**  
GWM in his 50's, looking for a BM into scat. ☎ 71196

**"Straight Slave Begs!!"**  
For sirs to train this slave, to suck cock and to discipline, degrade this slave. Please call with your orders. ☎ 71218

**Ass Master's Thesis!**  
Bearded WM, 42, seeks muscle butt studs as research subjects for thesis entitled, "The effects of athletics on the male anus." Examination table involved. ☎ 71219

**Furry Lips And Open Throat?**  
Hung Black Oakland daddy, 47, enjoys watching and feeling a thick moustache bouncing on my power-tool. Please no beards/goatees, voicemails or beginners. Late afternoons, late evenings. ☎ 71220

**Nude Diled Wrestling, Playful To erotic.**  
All skill levels for one-on-one or tag team matches. Hairy chested, 38y.o. GWM seeks similar types. ☎ 71221

**"Daytime Asshole--Eater!"**  
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71222

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## OTHERS

**GWM Stud ISO Mature Pig Btm 4**  
Wkend rubs. Cutcastronweiny dong is achen 28 milkedry. 6', 160, 47, hairy. ExUSN. BuzzsackGot. Dig longslodeep CS w/holoff, tongue, prost8 rubs, gumjobs, saliva, sweat & lousa cum romance. Soak my Big Bush w/drool! ☎ 71111

**Cocksucker Boy**  
Wants to service 8+ cocks only. You must be in good shape, between 20-40 and ready for some deep throat action. ☎ 71179

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English gentleman of sophistication will suffer urine; other cleansings. Corporal punishment, ET AL. Please inquire. In SF. Days, married cherished. ☎ 71180

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# By the numbers

The third time's the charm for the Butchies

by K.T. Drasky

The queercore, grrrl-dyke band the Butchies are not particularly hung up on the number 3, it just kind of keeps popping up in both the most obvious and least expected places. For starters, there are three of them — lead singer and guitar player Kaia Wilson and drummer Melissa York (both formerly of Team Dresch) and bassist Alison Martlew. They've put out three albums in three years and are calling their third 3 (Mr. Lady Records, 2001).

The reasons for this range from the simple ("It's the first time the three of us have put out

three records with any one band," according to York) to the sly ("If you add up our ages, you get the number 84, which is equally divisible by three," York again, who is sometimes known as the "funny Butchie.")

If you add up the Butchies (and it's true, York is 31, Wilson is 27 and Martlew is 26, which really does equal 84 and can be divided by 3 with nothing left over), the sum appears to finally be equaling its parts. The nine songs on 3 — yet another numeric in-joke for the mathematically inclined — are raw, explosive, and at times as out of control as a joy ride, occasionally ending with an abrupt smash-up through the front window of a 7-11.

3 kicks off with a little head-banger called "Anything Anthology" with lead singer Wilson (occasionally known as "the sexy Butchie") doing the good little bad punk-girl thing, singing sweetly for about 10 seconds before losing her mind and out-screaming the amps and drums. "This is nothing that you've ever felt before! The stage is for you, the chance it swarms you! Who wants it like it was before! Who wants it! Like Traffic! Like Zeppelin!"

Their sound has always been one part '70s and '80s arena-style rock (they cite Van Halen, Pink Floyd and Boston as particular influences), one part late '70s New Wave (think Devo, the Knack and Joe Jackson, but with a decidedly feminine twist) and one part pure schmaltz. Wilson ticks off the albums her parents played when she was a kid, "Judy Collins, Barry Manilow, Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, Abba, Bette Midler's *The Rose*," and admits they must have some subliminal effect on her songwriting. On earlier albums (1998's *Are We Not Femmes?* aka the Devo parody record and 1999's *Population 1975* — aka the Women's Music Collective parody cover) this effect seemed a bit dis-

jointed, but on 3 it has, at last, all come together.

## Pet sounds

Wilson's lyrics are alternately hip, funny, sad and sorry, and sometimes all of these at the same time. Case in some strange point: the haunting "Mandy," which bears the subtitle "1985-2000" and has already been mistaken as a tribute to a 15-year-old suicide victim fan. (The song is about Wilson's recently departed dog.) In two short minutes, Wilson recounts how painful the loss of a pet can be, noting that it led to "desperate raiding cupboards/ mixing gin and vodka." She stops short of rehab, switching gears to give a brief history of happier times, and then ending with a somewhat mournful yet hopeful refrain that girl and dog will be reunited in the hereafter: "I'll see you when I see you when I see you again! I'll see you when I see you again."

In addition to the fast-paced punk attacks in the "Anything Anthology" mode (among the best of these are "I Hate.Com" and "For Kay"), there are the ballads, the longer songs with more of Alison Martlew's calming bass (she's "the quiet Butchie") and Wilson's tortured storytelling vocals. "The Wedding Disaster" is a six-minute modern-day dyke interpretation along the lines of "You Can't Always Get What You Want." "Junior High Lament" is the tale of a girl who is repeatedly beaten up. The 4-1-1 ("You look like a boy,") for this "meet me behind the bleachers after 4th period" being delivered not by her enemies, but by her friends.

The Butchies never take themselves too seriously, though, and that's a good thing. Having relocated to Durham, North Carolina, one of the more welcoming oases popping up around the South that are surprisingly inviting to queers of all stripes, they are three best friends who are still striving to



Tammy Rae Carlin

Three's company: The queercore, grrrl-dyke band The Butchies.

quit their day jobs and maybe, just maybe, become "rock stars" for a while. This tongue-and-cheek desire pulsing through almost all of the nine tracks on 3 is a refreshing change from the tired and jaded tunes many of those

who've already gotten there are currently singing. ▼

The Butchies play Slim's with Amy Ray, April 27 and 28. Info: (415) 255-0333.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### A boost for Wuornos



Rick Genarier

At the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, the buzz for the past year has been over Carla Lucero's opera *Wuornos*, the story of sex worker and murderer Aileen Wuornos, now on Death Row for the killings of seven men in Florida. The full-scale production, in development at the Sims Center, is the first major opera by an out, proud lesbian. It got a financial shot in the arm last Thursday from Wells Fargo Bank Foundation representative Mario Diaz (left), who presented *Wuornos* Executive Producer Nancy Corporon with a check for \$25,000 to help cover the opera's costs.

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# Harsh visions

Don Bachardy's  
'Stars in My Eyes'

by Tavo Amador

Ever wonder what portrait artists are thinking while they work? If Don Bachardy's notes are typical, their thoughts are dispassionately cruel, at least if the subject is famous, no longer young, and once celebrated for his/her good looks. Bachardy, the longtime partner of Christopher Isherwood, is a skillful draughtsman, and his memoir *Stars in My Eyes* (Wisconsin University Press, \$34.95) reveals at least as much about him as about his famous sitters.

The book consists of portrait sketches and notes recounting the sittings, mostly during the 1970s, with Bette Davis, Joan Fontaine, Henry Fonda, Olivia de Havilland, Laurence Olivier, Barbara Stanwyck, Jerry Brown, Allen Ginsberg, James Merrill, Ginger Rogers, Vincente Minnelli, Louise Brooks, Alice Faye, Joan Blondell, Peter Pears, Paulette Goddard, and others. In some cases, he sketched more than one portrait, and usually asked his subject to sign and date it. With the exception of Fontaine, whom he says was not pleased ("In fact, I loathe it") they usually complied with his request. (Fontaine's reaction is understandable — the sketch does not resemble her at all. In fact, it looks more like Jean Simmons, who played her younger sister in 1957's *Until They Sail* and about whose appearance Bachardy also has unpleasant things to say.)

Some of the essays deftly describe the tension between subject and artist, and Bachardy admits when he flattered or lied to get them to sit still or relax. Sitting for hours without moving is difficult, although most of his subjects were sufficiently professional to manage it. Perhaps because he sees with an artist's vision, his observations seem mean. He says of Stanwyck, "Eye bags have certainly been removed, and I suspect her cheeks have been filled with silicone. Her age is betrayed only by her shiny, mottled skin, her scrawny bird's neck, and her anxiously sinking mouth." He is concerned about her reputed dislike of gay men, reportedly the reason for her estrangement from her adopted son, but she treats him well.

Several drawings capture Davis in all her aged glory. Never a Hollywood beauty, at 65, she accepted her looks without much complaint, although she drank steadily through most of their sessions. Blondell's good nature is obvious in her more mature, more rounded face.

## Ego trips

He admits to being excited by stars whom he liked in his youth,

such as Faye and Goddard. The former's coarse features are well rendered in his sketches, although her face has air-brushed quality about it. To his surprise and amusement, Faye thinks he captured her resemblance to Lauren Bacall — a resemblance no one else had ever noticed. Goddard, too, looks as though her face has been carefully retouched, and is unrecognizable. His essay on sketching Rogers — whom the young woman selling me the book thought was Loretta Swit of television's *M\*A\*S\*H* — is often hilarious,

although it is hard to say if her take on reality is less accurate than his. But his essay captures her egocentricity quite believably.

The bitter reality of silent screen star Brooks' old age is not reflected in his sketches,

but is present in Bachardy's notes, which unnecessarily describe her body functions and flatulence. The lack of vanity in Fonda and Olivier is not surprising. He captures a warm, sensuous side of de Havilland (who, like sister Fontaine, was disturbed by his drawing), but writes that she has been playing Eve Harrington to lifetime friend Davis' Margo Channing. He questions de Havilland's claim that Davis had inspired her to be an actress, because there is only an eight-year difference in their ages. But de Havilland was a highly impressive 16 when she first saw Davis, in 1932's *The Man Who Played God*. The most startling sketch is one of Minnelli, which he did not like, but which evokes his longing for the chance to work again. The drawings of Brown are also spot on: capturing his ego and self-satisfaction perfectly.

Bachardy, half of a famous gay couple, is unsparing in his assessment of other well-known homosexuals. He questions Pears's exceptional courtesy (although berating himself for being so cynical), then summarizes the tenor's appearance. "Pears's tall, pink whiteness is very striking. With his long, beaky face, he's like a hefty egret. His cold, blue, passionless bird-eyes are the darkest spots in their surrounding expanse of pink. His big, clumsy hands are fleshy, like hunks of swollen pink dough." He also criticizes Pears's reverential attitude about his longtime lover, composer Benjamin Britten. Ginsberg fares far worse, although the session with another poet, Merrill, went well, and they liked each other.

Bachardy includes a drawing of himself in the dust jacket. It is unflattering and creates an impression of anger, which could easily disturb a subject about to be dissected so unsparingly. Perhaps the problems he had with some of his sitters had more to do with him than with them. ▼



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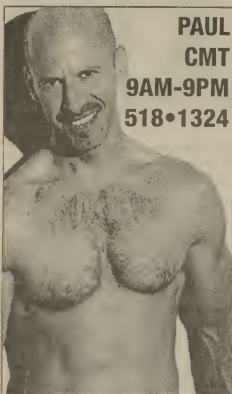
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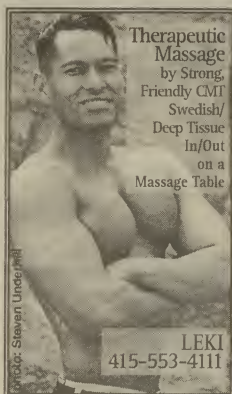
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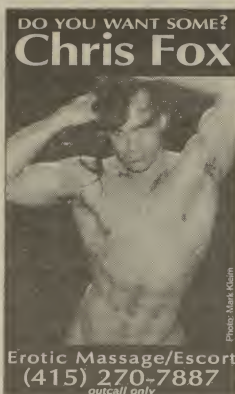


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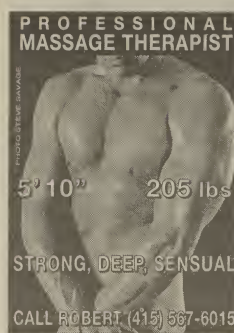
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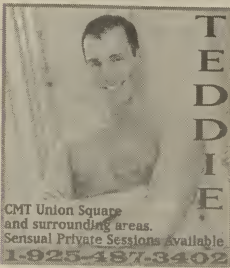
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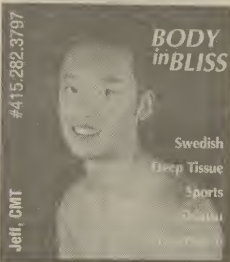


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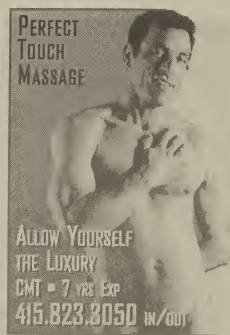
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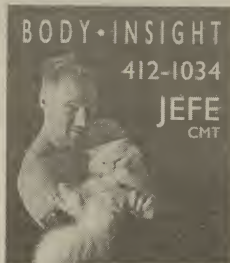
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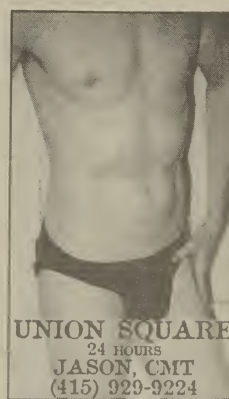
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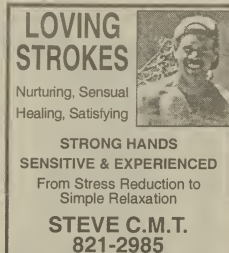
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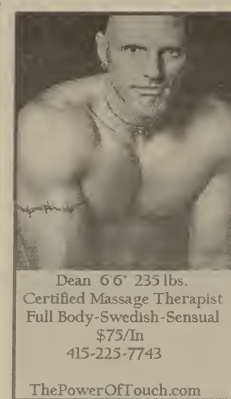
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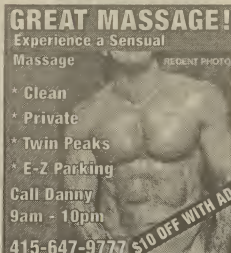
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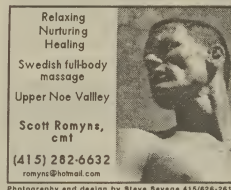
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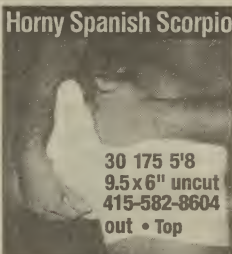
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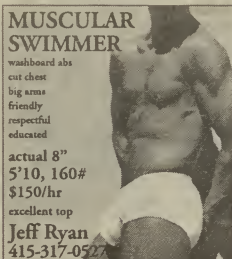
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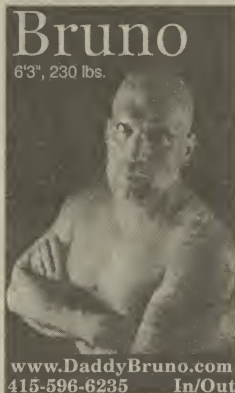
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Lean smooth leather top, 32,  
gives it like you need it. Sling  
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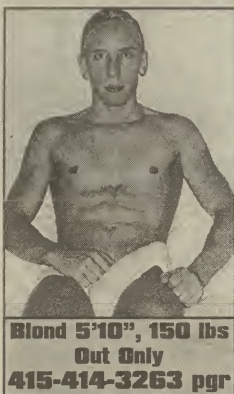
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**Dominant Leatherman**  
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Fetish,  
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Training  
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Brown Hair,  
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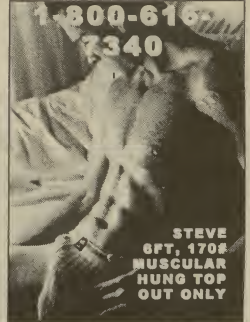
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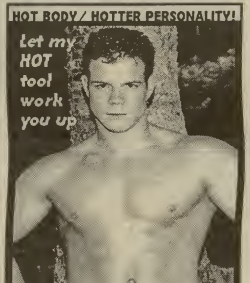
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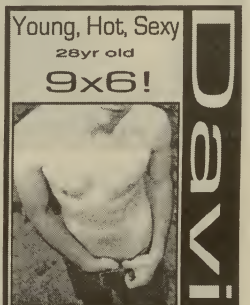
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Out calls only \$100

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100% GUARANTEED REAL,  
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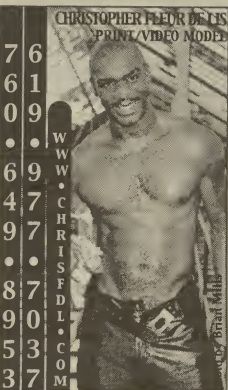
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6ft 165 Smooth  
Gym built and beautifully hung  
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**PAGE JACK 219-5608**

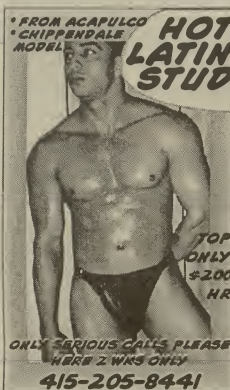
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Big and tall, good-looking dude.  
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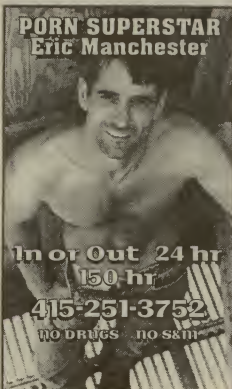
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Beginners? Have playspace & equip.  
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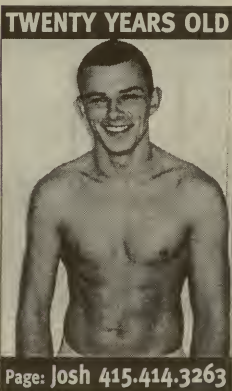
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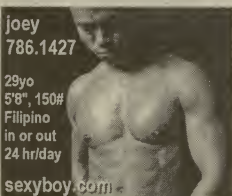
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In/ Out

**TOM 415-256-6743**



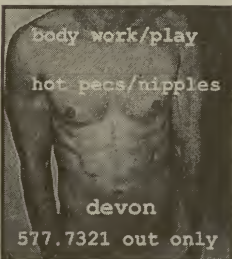
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Joey  
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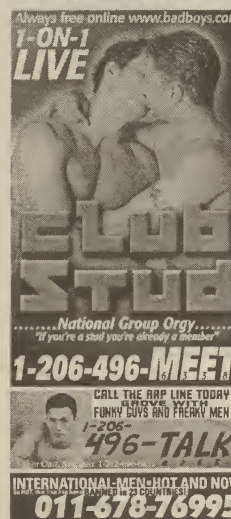
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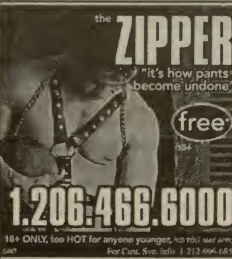
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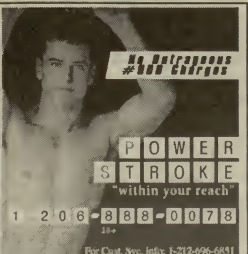
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E21

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E01-2002

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E19

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E17

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E-17

Body Trim & Shave \* Castro Area  
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E17

Should the public be allowed to sit in  
during judging interviews at leather  
contests? Email me your opinion:  
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E20

Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys  
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E39

**PHONE SCAM ARTIST**People in the leather community are  
being targeted by a person or persons  
who call saying he is someone that  
has been robbed/mugged/assaulted in  
a strange town and wants you to send  
some \$600 or more. Don't be taken in  
by this SCAM artist! Get a phone  
number and DO NOT send any money  
to them. Notify local police when you  
get their phone number. This has been  
going on for a couple of years now, so  
don't get "taken"! BEWARE!

E19

**"CASH FOR YOUR PORN!"**We buy magazines, photos and  
videos. Clean out your storage area  
and turn that stash into cash! Call  
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E20

Hot boy sux boys 18-26 753-1004

E25

**BARE BOTTOM SPANKING**

Over Daddy's Knee (415) 864-2766

E20

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E17

**262-47-2225 &  
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E17

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E18

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☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
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- Minimum \$10 charge.

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Expiration Date  
Signature  
Name**CONTACT INFORMATION**Name  
Address  
City  
State  
Zip  
Telephone  
Number of Issues  
Classification  
Amount Enclosed**MAIL WITH  
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